

GREAT WHIG DEMONSTRATION

In favor of the Nomination of Gen. TAYLOR to the Presidency.

THE BUENA VISTA FESTIVAL,

AT PHILADELPHIA, FEBRUARY 22, 1848.

The Great Whig Festival, in honor of the Birth of Washington and the Battle of Buena Vista, took place on the evening of February 22d, in the lower saloon of the Museum Building, Ninth street, below Chestnut. The demonstration was at once gratifying, animating, and exciting. Nothing superior, in the way of a Political Festival, has occurred in this city for many years. Our Whig brethren were present in immense strength—old and young—all ardent, and devoted to the cause—all eager for the triumph of Whig principles, and anxious to pursue the policy best calculated to rescue the nation from the rule of the existing dynasty. We never witnessed more enthusiasm. Among the guests, were some of the choice spirits of the land—such men as Hon. Washington Barrow, Hon. Patrick W. Tompkins, Hon. W. M. Cocke, Hon. H. W. Hilliard, and J. W. Webb, Esq. The Saloon presented a beautiful appearance. Atwood's celebrated full length portrait of the Hero of Buena Vista occupied a conspicuous position, and excited much attention. A spirit-stirring Address, prepared by the Hon. E. Joy Morris, was adopted by acclamation. Letters were received from the Hon. John Sergeant, the Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll, Abbot Lawrence, Maj. Gaines, of Kentucky, Hon. A. Stewart, the Hon. W. C. Rives, the Hon. J. W. Houston, Hon. E. C. Cabell, the Hon. Garnett Duncan, the Hon. Alex. Evans, the Hon. J. S. Pendleton, the Hon. W. L. Goggin, the Hon. G. G. Dunn, the Hon. D. M. Barringer, and many other Whigs of known ability, integrity, and devotion to the cause.

We bespeak for them a calm but attentive perusal. An exposition of sentiment from so many prominent members of the Whig party—men who deserve and enjoy, not only the confidence of their constituents at home, but of their Whig brethren throughout the land, cannot but produce a powerful sensation. It will be seen that they breathe but one spirit—unswerving, unfaltering devotion to the Whig cause, and to the means best calculated to render that cause signally and gloriously triumphant at the approaching Presidential election. All point to ZACHARY TAYLOR, AS AN UNDOUBTED WHIG, as THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE, and capable to bear the Whig standard—as he bore the National Flag at Buena Vista—in signal and overwhelming triumph, at the coming political struggle. All, too, are generous, just, and enthusiastic, with reference to the merits and services of the other beloved and respected champions of the Whig cause. All are for a thorough union and concentration of the entire Whig party; and all admit the policy and propriety of a National Convention, and stand prepared to abide by its decision. As Whigs, as Republicans, as admirers of Zachary Taylor, we are proud of the demonstration of yesterday. The proceedings, embracing the toasts, sentiments, and letters, may be said to embody the views of a large portion of the Whig party of this nation, and cannot but excite the

deepest interest, and the liveliest sensation throughout the Republic.

Among the mottoes and legends in the draperies and decorations of the Saloon, we observed the following:

"I ask no favor, and shrink from no responsibility." "Fort Harrison—Okee-Chobee—Palo Alto—Resaca de la Palma—Monterey—Buena Vista." "In masses resolve at the Ballot-Box to act." "Placard of the Taylor Mass Meeting in New York." "General Taylor never surrenders." "We are for the Union as it is, and for the Union as the will of all the States, legitimately expressed, may hereafter make it." "Harrison—still may thy name speak triumph from the tomb!" "Protect our Industry. The greatest danger to public liberty is from idleness and vice." "Agriculture, Manufactures, Commerce—Triple Crown of the United States."

A Banner to each State, and over the platform a fine heraldic painting of the Arms of Pennsylvania, were displayed.

The following gentlemen officiated as officers on the occasion:

PRESIDENT—JOSIAH RANDALL, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS—*First District*—George Norton, Craig Biddle, Peter Williamson, Peter Glasgow, George P. Little, Robert E. Nuttle, William F. Hughes, William E. Stevenson, George Clarkson, Joseph Shermer, A. W. Harker, John D. Hardy, William Divine, jr., Samuel McIlree.

Second District—A. G. Waterman, E. Spencer Miller, Joseph B. Myers, Robert McCrory, John T. Maull, Thomas Snowden, Benjamin Gerhard, Robert Morris, Lewis Cooper, John Trucks, S. C. Cooper, H. Cowperthwait, George Abbott, Thomas Newhall, Benj. Bunker, John Sturdivant, Daniel B. Beitler, D. C. Lockwood, Isaac S. Waterman, Dundas Pratt, Franklin Platt, Robert P. King, Jonathan Palmer, E. E. Smith, S. S. Kelly.

Third District—John E. Keen, John Manderson, Isaac Koons, Lawrence Shuster, William B. Mann, William C. Rudman, Chas. Justis, jr., John Lloyd, Samuel McFate, Arundius Tiers, Charles Keen, Samuel McCleane, Abel Lukens, John M. Coleman, Thos. Helm.

Fourth District—George A. Landell, John Wistar, jr., George Mintzer, William Rufner, Anthony W. Olwine, John Beatty, Daniel Fidler, William Linker, Thomas J. Watson, Franklin Comly, Isaac Heston, Jesse Hawkins.

SECRETARIES—Edward Walker, A. G. Hines, Henry Keyser, R. P. Gillingham, Thompson Reynolds, Geo. T. Thorn.

The dinner having been duly discussed, the Chairman, Mr. RANDALL, addressed the Meeting in the following speech, which was frequently interrupted with bursts of acclamation—particularly in those passages where the name, merits, and virtues of General Taylor were mentioned or referred to:

Fellow-citizens: We are called together to celebrate some of the most interesting events connected

with the history of our beloved country. One of the principal of these is the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the sacred day on which our beloved Washington was born. (Applause.) As a soldier, a statesman, a patriot, a christian, and a man, history presents no compeer. The world has given him the title of the "Father of his Country"—a title never before or since given to any man, however illustrious. He has secured the gratitude not only of millions who have been gathered to their fathers, but uncounted millions, yet unborn, will revere his name.

Remembering that his memory is most revered here where his principles are best followed, we have met to honor him who has proved himself eminently the man of his age and the purest man of God's whole creation.

But there are other events connected with this memorable day which consecrate it. Among these are the heroic acts of Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR. (Immense cheering.) He was stationed in the month of February, 1847, at Buena Vista. He had been victorious beyond parallel; and in return was deprived of a large portion of his command, and his effective force reduced to a small army of between 4900 and 5000 men—most of them American freemen and volunteers. He was placed at the mercy of an artful, enraged, and ruthless foe, in the person of Gen. Santa Anna, who came down upon him with overwhelming numbers. Early in the month of February, Santa Anna selected, and announced to the Mexican Congress, that on the 22d of February he would attack Gen. Taylor, and administer to him and the United States a rebuke and a degradation they should feel forever. Well acquainted with the history of our country, and confident of success, he thought it a fit day on which to chastise the insolent American army. The result is known. The God of armies hovered over that little American band, and victory crowned its efforts. An almost miraculous interposition of Providence deigned to bless our army and soldiers with a victory unsurpassed in brilliancy in the annals of modern warfare. (Applause.) In ten general battles and forty subordinate engagements our arms have been successful, and always against overwhelming numbers. We should bow down in gratitude to the God of Battles, and in humble thankfulness, that in all our dangers and perils He has at all times been with our happy country.

Hereafter the reminiscences of this day will be connected with every thing sacred in the Declaration of Independence, and every thing that is respected in the associations of the 8th of January, 1815.

We are here for another purpose, and that is to remember him who on this day achieved a victory unparalleled; and of presenting to the Whigs of the whole Union the name of Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR as the Whig candidate for the Presidency. (Immense applause.) But grateful as we feel towards him as the hero of four consecutive great triumphs of our armies, the simple fact of his being a victorious general would not of itself warrant us in presenting him as a candidate for that high office. He has other qualifications, and among them is his being, to use his own language, a Whig, nothing but a Whig, and a whole Whig.

The Whigs of this country, as a party, first formed their organization within the limits of this city. He (the speaker,) was present at the first meeting which assembled in the State House Yard, under the auspices and countenance of one, now absent at Washington, who has bestowed more

time, intellect, and substance upon the Whig cause than any other man. He meant the Hon. JOHN SERGEANT. (Tremendous applause.) Upon that memorable occasion the Whig creed was put forth. And since that time we have looked in the face of overwhelming numbers and intolerant majorities, yet we have gone on without altering one jot, and we are not willing now to forego the pride we have in our principles, and our adherence to them; we are not willing to abandon the chart by which we have been guided since our organization; and, therefore, in presenting Gen. Taylor to the nation it is as a Whig candidate. That he is a Whig, would be amply proved by a letter in possession of an honorable gentleman on his right, (Hon Mr. Barrow.) That he is a Whig, let the Whig party of Kentucky determine. That he is a Whig of the right stamp—of the school of Henry Clay—(loud cheers)—let every Whig of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama—the common ground of both these distinguished men—sufficiently determine. That he is a Whig, let the admonitory tone of the press of our political opponents determine. Why is that press and affiliated public sentiment so joined against the nomination of Gen. Taylor? It is because he can be elected! He understood their feelings, and it might be truly said of the Democratic party, (falsely so called, he thought,) that as General Taylor rises they fall, and as he falls they rise.

With General Taylor the Whigs will have success in the coming contest, and consequent upon his success our happy country will be freed from the thralldom in which it is involved—the purity of the laws, and every conservative principle that is valued, will be restored. When the happy event of his election is consummated, we shall have, in the words of the distinguished man, the "pleasure of restoring the country to the position which Washington gave it, and in which Madison left it."

In conclusion, Mr. R. remarked that several distinguished gentlemen would address the assemblage, and before he took his seat introduced the Hon. E. JOY MORRIS, who read the following toasts:

TOASTS.—1. *The Birth Day of Washington.*—We cling more fondly to his memory, as our rulers become more forgetful of his principles.

2. *Major General Zachary Taylor.*—Bold and decided in the field, wise and dignified in council—he has unconsciously and with characteristic modesty illustrated his military career with his sword and his pen. The civic annals of the Republic will commemorate his statesmanship, patriotism, and virtue—the MAN OF THE PEOPLE, and the MAN FOR THE TIMES. With him as a candidate, success cannot be doubtful—his name and fame will be a tower of strength. May he find favor with our Whig brethren of the Union.

3. *Henry Clay.*—Official station could add no lustre to his fame—time will not diminish it—it is interwoven with the history of the Republic, and is indelibly inscribed on its records.

4. *Major General Winfield Scott.*—In the first blush of manhood he devoted his services and offered his life to his country—he has ever since held them at her command. In the hour of need she has used them. Shame on the men, in or out of office, who seek to lessen his fame.

5. *The Whig National Convention.*—The bond of Whig union. Upon its decisions depend the success of the party, and the rescue of the Nation and Union from the perils that surround them. May wisdom and prudence guide its deliberations.

6. *The Army of the United States.*—Bunker Hill and Yorktown, New Orleans and Lundy's Lane, Buena Vista and Cerro Gordo, attest its valor and its glory.

7. *The Navy of the United States.*—Vera Cruz and the Pacific Coast bear witness that the indomitable spirit of 1812 is not extinct, and that the flag of the country is still safe in its hands.

8. *The Whigs of the Union.*—Organized for patriotic purposes, always ready to sacrifice personal preferences on the altar of the public good.

9. *A Protective Tariff.*—Necessary to develop the resources of the Nation and encourage American Labor—the cardinal principle of Whig faith—its necessity confirmed by experience and the exigencies of the times.

10. *The Volunteers of Pennsylvania.*—Always the most numerous in the field—first at Fort Erie and Lundy's Lane—first at Chapultepec, Molino del Rey and Mexico. May the claims of the survivors, and the widows and orphans of the fallen brave, be recognised and honored by a grateful country.

11. *Washington and Taylor.*—Men of the same mould—each one sufficient to mark a century.

12. *Woman.*—The guardian of infancy—the companion of manhood—the solace of age; from the cradle to the grave, the ministering angel of humanity.

The second, tenth, eleventh toasts were received with tremendous cheering.

The following Address, at the request of the chairman, was then read by Hon. E. JOY MORRIS, and the sentiments it contains were enthusiastically responded to by the meeting.

To the Whigs of the United States.

FELLOW WHIGS! We address you as political brethren, engaged in the same cause, and devoted to a common object—the salvation of the Constitution, and the rescue of the Nation and Union from the perils that now surround them. A crisis has arrived in the history of the Republic. The Constitution is perverted from its original spirit, and an attempt is made to change the purposes and character of our institutions. We are in the midst of a war, created by the act of the Executive, in derogation of the Constitutional functions of Congress. An immense debt is accumulating, day by day, and direct taxation is imminent. The industry of the people is sacrificed to theoretical doctrines; the revenues of the Government are inadequate to its support; the improvement of our Harbor and River navigation is arrested by Executive caprice, and the power of the Federal Government to promote the general prosperity is paralyzed by the arbitrary will of one man. The present is full of evil, and the future lowers upon us with clouds of foreboding gloom.

Patriotic Whigs! in the presence of impending ruin what is your duty? Shall your country appeal to you in vain? Will you not rally to its succor in this hour of extremity? Will you permit personal preferences to distract and divide you in the face of a conflict, which may, perhaps, be the last struggle in defence of Constitutional liberty? You have it in your power to *save the country*. Will you embrace the opportunity? It would be an impeachment of your patriotism, to question your willingness to obey a call, which, strong as the voice of nature, is addressed to your sympathies and judgment.

You cannot hesitate. The nation resounds with his name; his virtues and achievements are on every tongue; the universal eye turns to one man, as *the man for the times*—the gallant soldier, who saved the honor of his country when in extreme peril; whose military deeds have raised our national fame to the highest pitch of glory; and whose intellect and character have proved him worthy of a place designed for the highest merit and the most exalted worth—Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR.

We this day reiterate our desire to present him to the Whigs of the Union as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of the Whig National Convention. On his own authority, and in his own language, we declare him to be a "WHIG IN PRINCIPLE." If elected, he will administer the Government, in his own words, "according to the Washington and Madison policy"—the fountain heads of Whig doctrine. We are thus assured of his attachment to the Whig faith. He is pledged by his own voluntary act to the principles of the Whig party. He is known to be a man of stern integrity, firm purpose, and the loftiest honor. His illustrious character is a sufficient guarantee of the truth and fulfilment of his declarations. As an *avowed Whig*, then, we ask his nomination by the National Convention to assemble in the consecrated Hall of Independence, in this city, on the 7th of June next.

Of the election of General Taylor, if nominated by that august body, no one entertains a doubt. Gen. Taylor will carry this State by a large and decisive majority. We speak for ourselves of what we know, and what cannot be gainsayed. The hearts of the people of Pennsylvania are with him: they love him, and they are eager to honor him. The good, the pure, and the patriotic of all other political divisions will join with us in his support, and he will be raised to the Presidency by the largest vote any candidate has received since the days of Washington. His capacity is established by his despatches, his conduct, and the unerring sagacity and wisdom that has marked his career, from the war of 1812 to the campaign on the Rio Grande. His virtue, his integrity, and his purity of motive, have stood the test of the most severe ordeal, and he stands before the world without spot or blemish. As an American citizen we are proud of him, and as a Whig we rejoice that there is one among us who commands the love and admiration of *all* our countrymen.

Whigs of the Union! In the name of our common country, in behalf of her outraged Constitution, and by your regard for the success and establishment of the great principles of our organization, we invoke you to join with us in an effort to secure the nomination of Gen. Taylor by the Whig National Convention. With *him*, a glorious and a salutary victory is *certain*: an honorable peace will be secured and maintained, and the tide of misrule will be turned back, and the better days of the Republic be restored, in all their primitive lustre and glory. A fearful responsibility rests upon you. Let it never be said that *you* faltered, when all that is held dear was at stake. By the sacred memories of the past, by the hopes of the future, we call you to the rescue, and implore you to rally with us under the standard of TAYLOR AND THE CONSTITUTION. Future ages will honor your patriotism, and the page of history will attest the blessings you conferred upon your race and country, by the nomination of the unsullied patriot, the veteran hero

the honest man, the venerable sage—Gen. Zachary Taylor—as your candidate for the Presidency.

E. JOY MORRIS,
GEO. A. LANDELL,
PETER GLASGOW,
JNO. M. COLEMAN,

Philadelphia, Feb. 22, 1848. *Committee.*

The reading of the Address was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic applause; and at the close, the vast Hall resounded with deafening cheers.

The Hon. WASHINGTON BARROW, Representative in Congress from the Nashville district in Tennessee, was then introduced to the meeting by the chairman.

At the battle of Monterey, he said, when the contest raged hottest, and the gallant volunteers of Tennessee and Mississippi, abreast, were charging the black fort—when the leaden storm was dealing havoc among our brave army—when every man, it would be thought, was intent on the conflict, the word ran along the line that General Taylor was approaching; and then, while death was staring them in the face—a tall Tennessean, six feet five inches high, rose up and cried out, “Silence, boys—General Taylor is approaching; three cheers for the old horse.” And three tremendous cheers were given! As the humble representative of that tall Tennessean, though he would not aspire to equal his excellence, being himself only six feet three inches, but every inch a Whig—he would call upon his fellow-citizens of Philadelphia, when rallied to resist the serried columns of Locofocoism, to give, also, “three cheers for the old horse.” (*And three deafening cheers were given!*)

He could well fancy the feelings of that Tennessean, when, in the midst of the dreadful conflict which brought such glorious consequences, the calm and deliberate leader appeared on the field. In his presence the arm of the man who had been stricken down was again nerved for the fight, and the wounded and dying were willing to respond to the cry of “three more cheers for the old horse.”

He desired attention for a few moments, while he read to the assemblage a letter, of which he had the honor to be the bearer, from their distinguished representative in Congress, Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll. Here, said he, is a letter, from Old Zach. himself. He must say it was only a copy, but he was ready to affirm that it was a true copy of the original. He would have been more happy to be the bearer of the original, for he would rejoice to show it to them, marked as it is by all the characteristics of the man—indicative of him, whose modesty and sense of duty always go hand in hand. It was unnecessary to say that the letter which produced this letter from Gen. Taylor was a forgery, was not written by Mr. Ingersoll; and after briefly adverting to the circumstances, he proceeded to read it.

“HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Monterey, Mexico, August 3, 1847.

Hon. Jos. R. INGERSOLL.

“DEAR SIR: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 7th ult., which has just reached me, in which you say, ‘I had the honor of being called on last evening to address a mass meeting of the Whigs of the City and county of Philadelphia. At that meeting your name was frequently mentioned in connection with the office of the Chief Magistracy. I stated to that meeting, as I had before stated in my place in the House of

Representatives at Washington, that you were a Whig; not, indeed, an ultra partizan Whig, but a Whig in principle’—all of which is entirely correct. And after the discussion which occurred in both Houses of Congress, at the last session, growing out of the capitulation of Monterey, in which discussion you thought proper to defend my conduct in regard to that transaction, when assailed somewhat, if not entirely on party grounds, in the House of which you were a member, for which you have my sincere thanks; which was done in such a way by those who disapproved that measure, I can hardly imagine how any one who was present and heard the speeches on that occasion, or read them after they were published, could mistake the complexion of my politics.

“At the last Presidential canvass, without interfering in any way with the same, it was well known to all with whom I mixed, Whigs and Democrats, for I had no concealments in the matter, that I was decidedly in favor of Mr. Clay’s election, and would now prefer seeing him in that office to any individual in the Union—certainly much more so at any time to myself. Independent of his great talents and long experience in government affairs, I consider his views and those of the Whigs, for the most part, are more nearly assimilated, as regards political matters, to those of Mr. Jefferson, than their opponents, in whose political creed I was reared, and whose opinions in matters of state I have never lost sight of, as well as endeavored to conform to them as near as circumstances would permit. My commission as a Lieutenant in the Army was conferred by him, a short time before he retired from public life.

“Although no one can appreciate more highly than I do the too favorable opinion I fear you have formed as regards my fitness for the first civil office in our country, (which I consider, should I reach it, is rather too much of an experiment,) as well as duly grateful for your aid in bringing me so prominently before the nation for the office in question, yet I cannot permit the present opportunity to pass by without repeating to you what I have said to others, in regard to the subject of the Presidency, which is, that I am no politician. Near forty years of my life have been passed in the military service of the Republic, nearly the whole of which, in the field, the camp, on our western frontier, and in the Indian territory, I may well say constantly on duty the two last in Mexico, or on its immediate border, during which time I have not passed one night under the roof of a house. You may therefore very readily suppose, under such circumstances, I have had but little time to devote to the consideration or investigation of great political questions or subjects, or to their discussion, nor have I attempted to do so, or to be mixed up with political men or measures in any way, not even having voted for one of our Chief Magistrates since I joined the Army, having for the most part been serving or stationed beyond the limits of the States, I must say I have no wish for the Presidency, and cannot consent to be exclusively the candidate of a party. And if I am one at all, or to be made so at the coming election, it must be borne in mind that I have been, or will be made so by others, without any agency of mine in the matter. Independent of my wishes, I greatly doubt my want of the necessary qualifications to discharge the duties properly, of an office which was filled and adorned by a Washington, a Jefferson, as well as several others of the purest, wisest, and most accomplished

statesmen and patriots of this or any other age or country. I almost tremble at the thoughts of the undertaking. Yet, if the good people think proper to elevate me, at the proper time, to the highest office in their gift, I will feel bound to serve them, if not from inclination, from a principle of duty, and will do so honestly and faithfully, to the best of my ability, in accordance with the principles of the Constitution, as near as I can do so, *as it was construed and acted on by our first Presidents*, two of whom, at least, acted so conspicuous a part in aiding, in completing, that instrument, as well as putting it in operation.

"But very many important changes may take place at home and abroad, during now and the time for holding the election for our next Chief Magistrate, so much so as to make it desirable for the general good that some one with more experience in state affairs should be selected as a candidate than myself, and could he be elected, I will not say I would yield my pretensions, for I have not the vanity to believe I have any for that distinguished station, but would acquiesce not only with pleasure in such an arrangement, but would rejoice that the Republic had one citizen more worthy and better qualified than I am to discharge the important duties appertaining to that position; and no doubt there are thousands. Be this as it may, if ever I occupy the White House it must be by the spontaneous movement of the people, without any action of mine in relation to it; without pledges other than I have previously stated—a strict adherence to the provisions of the Constitution. So that I could enter on the arduous and responsible duties appertaining to said office untrammelled; so that I could be the President of the country, and not of a party.

"With considerations of great respect and esteem, I remain your obedient servant,

(Signed) Z. TAYLOR.

"We have some little glimmerings of peace. I have this moment received a note from Gen. Wool, commanding at Saltillo, about 70 miles in advance of this place towards the city of Mexico, of which the following is an extract: 'I have but a moment to say, that I have received information through J. Sanchez, that Gen. Scott was still at Puebla on the 17th ult.; that the Mexican Congress had convened, and that it had conferred the power on Santa Anna to negotiate for peace, subject to the approval of Congress, and that an armistice had been proposed.' This can be relied on, and must be gratifying to all lovers of peace, of which number I profess to be one of its most ardent admirers and advocates.

Z. T."

Mr. BARROW frequently broke off the reading to give expression to his own sentiments. In alluding to that portion of it in which the writer speaks of not having for many years passed a night under a roof, "Mark that," said Mr. B., alluding to the last sentence: "Ought he not to be called Old Rough and Ready?" Again, in commenting upon the sentence in which he remarks, in relation to the Presidency, "I tremble at the undertaking," Mr. B. said: "A man who could, at Palo Alto, ask coolly and cheerfully, 'How goes the day?'—who could, amidst all the dangers of the battle, sit calm and collected, with one leg thrown over the pommel of his saddle—who, at Buena Vista, when the fortunes of the day were against him, could step forward, and gently whisper, 'A little more grape,' Capt. Bragg—who, on such occasions, could show that he possessed nerves of steel, when he sees his countrymen preparing to tender to him the highest

office in their gift, with the modesty that is characteristic of true greatness, trembles at the thought!

What better evidence could we have of the excellence of the man than this modesty? What better guaranty that it is not ambition, not selfishness? He (Mr. B.) assured the meeting, that when he read the letter all his predilections for Gen. Taylor were sealed in his heart. Modesty was the virtue of women; it was also the virtue of greatness. Just hear that brave old man! The man who could infuse courage into the most desponding—who could write, in a despatch to his Government, before the battle of the 8th of May, "There is a large force of the enemy between me and Fort Brown; but, whatever their numbers, I shall meet and fight them"—shrinks from the unwonted position, in civil life, in which his countrymen wish to place him, and declares that he "*trembles at the thought of the undertaking.*"

Think of this trait in the character of this glorious old man when you have retired from this festive board. Let it sink deep into your hearts, that, after having achieved the greatest victories of the age, he does not step forward to clutch with avidity the glittering prize within his grasp, but, in very humbleness of spirit, he acknowledges the heavy responsibility attached to the office of Chief Magistrate of this great people, and, in words which carry with them the conviction of sincerity and truth, he says, "*I tremble at the thought of the undertaking.*"

But mark another feature in the character of this second Washington. Modest and retiring as he is; much as he shrinks from the thoughts of the Presidency; that sense of duty which has been the rule and guide of his whole life compels him not to refuse any station, however arduous or exalted, to which his countrymen may call him. If the "good people" desired it, he would feel bound to serve them. And, in doing so, he would be "*the President of the nation, and not the head of a party.*"

What a noble sentiment!—a sentiment desecrated by the present Executive, who, while on his way to Washington, declared that he would be the Chief Magistrate of the people, and not of a party, but who has become not only the President of a party, but of a fragment of the great Democratic party in the Union—a partisan not only as regards the civil offices of the country, but even in a foreign war, the offices created by which he has filled almost altogether with his political favorites.

His word for it, Gen. Taylor will never, if he is elected, keep his promise so falsely, but will be, as he ought to be, the President of the nation, and not a mere chief or leader of a party.

He, as a good Taylor man, not so tall as the Tennessean he had spoken of, but a pretty good specimen of Whig Taylorism, was willing that the letter should go forth as the declaration of principles of "old Rough and Ready."

He then read the conclusion of the letter, and the postscript, and, in commenting upon the latter, he said that General Taylor possessed not only the modesty of a woman, but he exhibited another quality in this instance which belonged to the sex; the P. S. was by no means the least interesting portion of the letter. He directed the attention of the assembly to the last sentence of the postscript, the sentiment of which he considered deeply important and admirable. It will show that he who could and did calmly and successfully oppose 4,300 men against 21,000 Mexicans, led by the Napoleon of the West, was a deep and earnest lover of peace;

and he asked the assemblage to contrast his language with that of the men in buckram at Washington—with that of Mr. Polk, who not only never smelt gunpowder, but would probably never put himself in the way of smelling it. Mr. Polk wished to plunge the sword still deeper into the heart of Mexico, and to sacrifice more lives, to spill more blood, and make greater waste and ruin. But General Taylor, who has been in battles, and is cognizant of their horrors, is a true and sincere advocate of peace. As to Mr. Polk, he felt called upon to assert, as a genuine Whig, from old Jackson's State, that the present President was by no means a true representative of the chivalry and courage of Tennessee.

He felt a pride in the glorious sentiments of the letter he had just read. He endorsed them all, and he preferred old ZACHARY TAYLOR, the hero of so many victories, the honest, capable, and modest man, as the Whig candidate for the Presidency, to any man in the Union.

Mr Barrow created quite an enthusiasm, but it was impossible to report his remarks correctly, as they proved a sort of running commentary upon the letter, in the reading of which he frequently broke off to speak his own views created by the sentiments therein expressed. We have endeavored to follow him as nearly as possible—but any report would lack the greater portion of the effective manner and peculiar force his delivery gave to his remarks. When he had concluded enthusiastic cheers were given for the speaker and Tennessee.

The Chairman introduced the Hon. Mr. HILLIARD, of Alabama, to the meeting, who was received with acclamations. Mr. HILLIARD said:

We meet, fellow-citizens, under the most interesting circumstances; the past and the future shed their blended light upon us. I rejoice that I am here on this occasion, and that I see around me so large an assemblage of the citizens of Philadelphia—a city renowned not only for its wealth and intelligence, but for its constant attachment to Whig principles. I know that a double motive brings us together this evening; we come to celebrate the anniversary of a day which gave Washington to the world, and of a day which opened upon one of the most extraordinary battle-scenes which has occurred in ancient or modern times—a battle-scene which exhibited the great qualities of another American general who so strongly resembles Washington—I mean Gen. Zachary Taylor. The day will go down to posterity with these glorious associations, and will call out from succeeding generations ever increasing gratulations. We meet not only to celebrate these great results, but to counsel together, on this hallowed anniversary, upon the best interests of the country.

At the close of the revolutionary war, the colonies which had fought through that great struggle became united States, under a system of confederation which did not accomplish the objects for which it was created. A convention met to form a more perfect union, composed of the leading spirits of the time, and the present Constitution was agreed upon. Who was chosen to guide the new government into the troubled waters of an untried future? Not Adams, trained as he was in the departments of civil life; not Hamilton, with his clear, profound, and comprehensive intellect; not Jefferson, with all his genius, courage, and enthusiasm. No; to none of these was the helm committed, in that trying hour; but the bold, manly, vigorous hand of Washington grasped it, and the

world saw the doubt and apprehension of a young nation, just entering upon its career, soon give way to confidence and hope.

The simple grandeur of that first President was suited to the great proportions of the government which he undertook to administer. We live in eventful times; the great virtues of the early days of the Republic seem almost lost to us; we need some man who is not simply a politician, some man cast in a noble mould, some man endeared to the American people by his services, some man who on trying occasions has displayed both courage and wisdom, some man whose public and private character are alike spotless, to vindicate the principles of the American government, and bring it back to its purer and better days.

In the order of Providence, such a man is presented to us now. That man is Gen. Zachary Taylor. (Great acclamation.)

We desire to-day, in the midst of the impressive scenes which surround us, to present him to the people of the United States as a candidate for the Presidency. Washington once filled that great station. After the lapse of half a century we wish to see it filled by Taylor, whose name and deeds will be forever associated with his.

We present Gen. Taylor as a candidate, not merely because of his great strength with the American people, but because of the great qualities which belong to him. To a mind clear and vigorous, he adds a great heart. His enlightened judgment, his self-possession in the midst of danger, his keen foresight, his love of truth, his independence, his unselfishness, his modesty, these all proclaim him great. His whole character is admirably balanced, displaying a rare combination of high endowments.

How complete is his oblivion of self! His whole course is characterized by a generous regard for others. His reception at New Orleans was a brilliant one; and a friend remarked to him, "General, this is a bright day for you; you must have enjoyed it." "Not altogether," he replied; "there were so many women and children present, that I was afraid some of them would get hurt." Was there ever before a man heard of, who, upon the occasion of a great and imposing public reception, was more alarmed for the safety of women and children than elated at the honors paid him. This little incident, so unimportant in itself, beautifully illustrates a great character.

Was there ever before a man known amongst us who spoke of others as better qualified than himself for an office to which the uplifted voice of a nation was calling him? In the letter just read to us, Gen. Taylor speaks of Henry Clay as better suited (tremendous applause) to the Presidency than himself. I rejoice, fellow-citizens, at this demonstration of regard for Mr. Clay. It proves your attachment to the Whig cause. It attests the sacrifice you make in giving up one who has long stood at the helm and firmly held his station amidst tempest and storm. You have done battle for him nobly, and you still cheer him, while you rally round the standard of a great captain who will lead us to certain victory. (Loud cheers.) Taylor is worthy to lead you; his great services and his great character alike claim your confidence. Of him it may be said, as one said of a noble Roman,

— "the elements are
"So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, this is a man."

His character is illustrated by his career. We all remember the profound anxiety which pervaded the country when the news reached us that the small army under Gen. Taylor, then stationed upon the Rio Grande, was threatened by an overwhelming Mexican force; that Thornton and his company were cut off, and that an attack was about to be made on Fort Brown. The commanding general had marched to Point Isabel for his supplies. He was returning; but he seemed to be cut off by a Mexican army, which occupied the ground before him, and threatened to annihilate him. The battle of Palo Alto was fought, and the Mexicans gave back before the American guns. The next morning a council of officers was assembled, and the question was asked, "Shall we return to Point Isabel, or advance to Fort Brown?" There were brave officers who thought it rash to advance in the face of an overwhelming force, strongly posted, and they thought it best to fall back. After hearing opinions, Gen. Taylor said, "Gentlemen, if I live, I will sleep in Fort Brown to-night." With what anxiety did the little garrison left there await the result of that day's fight! The fierce and exulting hosts poured down upon the American troops, and for a moment hid them from view; but when the cloud of battle was rent, out rode Taylor at their head, the broken ranks of the Mexican army flying before him, and bearing to Fort Brown the first news of their own defeat, as they swept by in utter terror and confusion.

The next conflict between the American and Mexican arms took place at Monterey—a walled city, filled with troops, and defying attack. But it yielded to the impetuous valor of American soldiers, led on by Taylor. No strength of position, no disproportion of numbers, could withstand them. The annals of the world cannot furnish a parallel to such an exploit.

The semi-fabulous accounts of the conquest of Grenada show no such achievement.

But at Buena Vista Gen. Taylor exhibited the great qualities which belong to him so conspicuously that the world saw he was a man cast in no common mould. It must be remembered that a very large proportion of the regular force was withdrawn from him, and he was left in an advanced and exposed position, supported only by a small body of volunteers.

The Mexican army, twenty thousand strong, was bearing down upon him, led by their greatest chief, Santa Anna. In this perilous position it became Gen. Taylor's duty to determine whether he should stand and make battle against such fearful odds, or fall back upon Monterey, as he had been authorized to do by the commander-in-chief. The great considerations involved in his decision passed in review before him. If he fell back he must abandon to the enemy the whole country which the position commanded. The spirit of the army, too, would be damped by a retreat. Yet his returning spies reported the advance of the Mexican force in all its overpowering strength; and, as he looked out upon his own lines, he saw himself supported by less than five thousand troops, and of these only two squadrons of cavalry and three battalions of light artillery, making just four hundred and fifty-three (453) men, were regular soldiers. He resolved to stand. His mind swept the whole horizon about him. He saw his danger, but he saw his duty, and he resolved to stand.

The shock of battle came. The infuriated Mexican hosts poured down upon the little body

of American troops, almost surrounding them; but TAYLOR was there, unshaken as a rock, against which the billows dash in vain, and when no *regiment* could be found to support a battery, *he* supported it himself.

When, after two days' struggle, the smoke of battle cleared away from that hard-fought field, there stood Taylor, his bayonets gilded by the sun of victory, and the banner of his country, which floated over him, crowned with imperishable glory.

We need, at this moment, such a man to stand forward as our leader. The crisis demands him, and we may thank an overruling Providence that the crisis has produced him. Trying occasions call out great men. They are sometimes born amidst convulsions, which they afterwards guide for the good of mankind. Now, when the Government is in the hands of a reckless administration, we must wrest it from those who would drive it headlong upon swift destruction. We want a leader who will open the way to victory—who will scatter the serried ranks of the opposing force, and that leader is "the old thunderer of the Cordilleras." Victory knows his standard. Even now, poised in mid air, it waits to see that standard once more flung out under the heavens to light upon it, and proclaim a peaceful and beneficent conquest.

It is said he is not a Whig. Who can doubt, after the letter which we have heard read to-night? He is not the mere creature of a party. I honor him for it. He belongs to his country, to his whole country; and, if he should undertake the administration of the Government, he will enter upon his great task, as WASHINGTON did, uncommitted, unfettered, looking to no resolutions of a convention, but looking to the condition of the country and to the Constitution.

He is a Whig—a Whig in principle—a Whig in affinities—and he will be a Whig upon the noblest model.

There is a broad distinction between the principles and the measures of a party. The great principle of the Whig party is its conservative feeling, its disposition to check the headlong career of a dangerous administration, to arrest the proclivity of the Government, and bring it back to the purer and better days of the Republic. Measures are designed to carry out principles, and must vary with the changing condition of the country. But there is an ever-springing vigor about the great principles of the Whig party; and in view of them, in the noblest sense of the term, Gen. Taylor is a WHIG. The country has suffered too much from *mere* partisans, and I desire to contribute to the election of a President who will rise into the loftier character of a patriot.

Gentlemen, at this hour we must look to our *cause*. We must give up *men*. I have stood by Mr. Clay with unshrinking fidelity. At Harrisburg, in 1839, I sustained his nomination up to the last moment; but, when Gen. Harrison was chosen, I took my place under his standard, and followed it into the thickest of the fight. In my judgment, we must take the same course now, or our cause is doomed to disaster and defeat.

We are practical men. We shall not indulge the wild enthusiasm which would impel us into a desperate, hopeless conflict, for the elevation of a favorite leader. Men must give way that the cause may triumph. Under Gen. Taylor's banner we fear no defeat. He stood upon the field of Buena Vista, supported mainly by volunteers—the regular troops

had been withdrawn from him—and yet when Santa Anna, with his twenty thousand men, rushed down upon him, they recoiled from the shock, covered with inglorious defeat. So it is now. Gen. Taylor stands out the candidate of the people. He is sustained only by volunteers. The regular forces have not yet come into the field. But he cannot be driven from his position; and if attacked by any force, under any leader, he will give them another Buena Vista. I see around me gallant spirits, and I know that, when Gen. Taylor's name is brought forward, they will spring to their guns as Bragg and Washington did to their batteries.

The States are ready to declare for him. New England will soon fling out his banner. New York is already sending its forces to his support, and will give him the vote of an empire. Pennsylvania will march its legions into the lines which form about him. Virginia only waits to hear his name proclaimed to join the mighty Whig phalanx. A shout for Taylor comes up from the great West; while almost the whole South—North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida—have already declared for him, and I firmly believe that, if we spread that banner to the breeze in Alabama, we shall be able, though against great odds, to bring the ship, so long misguided, into the Whig line of battle.

Rome was accustomed to call home her victorious generals, and reward them with public triumphs. We shall call home a general, so modest, so pure, so like WASHINGTON, to give him a still higher reward. We have other generals to lead our armies to battle, but to him, to Taylor, we shall entrust the helm of State. He leads home no captives—he leaves behind no prisoners in chains; and he returns, as we hope, to wield, with the blessing of God, the powers of the Chief Magistracy, and to bring back the Government to its ancient purity.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was the first President of the United States. In the gallery of the King of the French, at Versailles, in a collection of illustrious portraits, I saw the form of that AMERICAN, whose fame is so wide that mankind claim it as a heritage, and I rejoiced that I was an American. I trust that now, from the very storm of battle, another man is disclosed to the view of the American people, who, while he resembles WASHINGTON in the great lineaments of his character, will administer the Government as he did.

Such is my conviction of the dangers to which the country is exposed—such my earnest wish to bring the Government back to its earlier and better days, that, whatever standard there may be in the field, my heart, my voice, my energies, shall be employed in support of Gen. Taylor. Mr. Hilliard took his seat amidst a tumult of applause.

The honorable P. W. TOMPKINS, of Miss., next addressed the Whigs; and, in commencement, remarked that he feared he would not gratify expectations, but when under the banner of General Taylor he was campaigned, he would be found true to him under whose banner he had enlisted.

He was not present during the delivery of the first speeches made, but he had no doubt that eulogy had been lavishly bestowed on General Taylor. He would not detain them with his own sentiments, but would proceed to consider some principles and facts, and the operation of those principles and facts, which had wrested his judgment to the conviction of the fitness for the Presidency of the veteran Zachary Taylor.

He believed there were but two men in the Whig party looked to for that high office, and he regretted to see in the influences and the love of another an indisposition to speak plainly upon matters relating to the Presidency. Duty, unpleasant duty urged him to the task of declaring his sentiments, but no word of disrespect should escape his lips or be held in his heart. Yet, there are some things we must reflect upon, canvass, and talk of, if success is to crown our efforts.

I have, said the speaker, all the respect for Henry Clay which any man here feels; I respect him as profoundly; but facts have powerfully demonstrated that under his lead the Whigs will be again doomed to defeat. Could I think otherwise, I would rejoice, and be glad that the majesty and grandeur of his intellect had overcome the phrenzied feeling which rejects the most splendid abilities, in the spirit of the ancient Jews, who cried, "This man shall not reign over us."

We must not shut our eyes to this fact. In our intense admiration of Henry Clay we are apt to lose sight of prudence. But if we rally around Taylor, that stern old Republican, we shall certainly triumph. Mr. Clay is an old statesman, and he has old friends whose patriotism and zeal would do much in his behalf; but he has also hosts of determined enemies, who while he is in privacy remain quiet, but who, the moment his name was sounded, would leap forth and commence the work of detraction. Calumnies against him would again, as before, fill the land, and be echoed from the hill-tops to the vallies, and from one end of the country to the other.

General Taylor is embalmed in the hearts of the people. Even the Administration effort in the House of Representatives recoiled upon the movers with terrible effect. That effort at detraction was a besom of destruction to the Locofocos in Congress, for it reduced their majority of seventy to nothing, and has torn them down into a minority. What, but the power of General Taylor's name, working in the indignant hearts of the American people, who could not tamely look on and see the attempt made to blur and destroy one of the brightest jewels in the treasury of the country, has done this?

But there are other considerations which must be taken into consideration. Henry Clay was in 1820 admitted to the United States Senate; he must then have been 30 years of age, and when he retired must have been 70 years. If elected President he will be seventy-three years of age. Providence has blessed him with his physical energies, but at his advanced age he is subject to too many casualties to make him the safe depository of the important trusts of the Executive of the nation.

There is another consideration. For the last quarter of a century he has been looked upon as a candidate for the Presidency. Politicians have gathered around him; and, unlike General Taylor, who has no dependents, he would be surrounded by veterans who would hail his election as guaranteeing the security to them of promotions, bounties, and pensions; and who, having been held so long aloof, would push the system of decapitation, even to the lowest office; as not one in fifty of these applicants can be gratified, he will be denounced—the country will grumble, and the Whig party will be filled with dissensions. General Taylor has no veterans in his service.

The office of President of the United States is too important to trust to a man nearly eighty years

old. God may spare him; but we have already had a sad experience. We do not abate one jot of our worship of his grandeur of intellect, and the patriotic fervor of his heart; but God has framed all human vessels so that they must wear out; and he has already passed beyond the limit fixed by the Divine will.

The success of Whig principles is most ardently desired; but those who think that Henry Clay should be elected, should pause and consider what there is left that can add to his glory. The measure of his fame is full—it is inscribed wherever intellect is known—it almost pervades space, and is imperishable as the stars. To be elected President could confer no additional honor on him, or increase his stature a hair's breadth; and remembering his advanced age, and the circumstances by which he is surrounded, they who are struggling to place him in the Presidential chair, should pause and reflect whether they are not putting his fame to the hazard of permanent detraction.

He has lived in a political storm all his life. On the boisterous tide of events, he has stood before the mast. The waves have broken over him—the mist and spray have dashed into his face, yet never has he flinched or stirred, that good old weather-beaten watchman before the mast, (great applause.) Now what does he want? His services have dazzled the world, and lifted the name of his country high as heaven's own zenith. His life shines as a sun; and let that sun descend the heavens, casting its broad, calm light upon the country, it has blessed. His fame should not be put again in jeopardy.

But if Mr. Clay's friends persist in forcing his nomination, it behooves the Whigs to give that ticket, which bears his name, some of the elements of success. He looked round to see where those elements of success might be combined, in case Mr. Clay is put in nomination, but he was unable to discover any. But if he is forced upon the ticket, then, in order to gain influence, we must add the name of some one against whom the people of the United States do not entertain such an unreasonable bitterness, as against Mr. Clay; and in that case, and only in that case, he would say that General Taylor should be placed second.

The fire burns in the hearts of the people for General Taylor. It is *unquenchable*, and more general and pervading than ever was the feeling excited for Mr. Clay: it was more general but more ardent.

Some say that they do not know that General Taylor is a Whig, and others will not vote for him because he will not sign pledges. The speaker thought that the bane of the Republic for many years had been these political catechisms. Washington refused to sign them, and Jefferson in his celebrated contest with Burr also refused. It is a dangerous innovation, and since its introduction in 1828, our Government has been in theory a Republic, but in practice a Monarchy; for by this system every great measure is made to emanate from the Executive to the Legislature. If we desire to get rid of it, let us, in selecting a candidate, choose the great man, in whose incorruptible integrity we may safely trust the power of the *Executive*, and let us bring back the legislation to the good old times. We shall thus emancipate legislation and free Congress, which since 1828 has been nothing out of a sort of Swiss guard, to carry out the mandates of the President.

He hoped that now when the Whigs were slight-

ly divided, (not so much as the Locofocos, who have about thirty candidates to choose from,) that whatever discussion would be, should be had in a spirit of compromise and patriotic devotion to the general good.

In conclusion he desired to see a banner representing General Taylor on his old White Horse, with his leg thrown over the pommel of his saddle, calmly peering through his spy-glass at the columns of the Mexicans, and he was sure that it would raise a shout that would make the earth tremble, and Mr. Polk quiver.

Hon. W. M. COCKE, of Tennessee, next spoke:

He commenced by remarking, that he came from that State whose triumphant voice, in every contest, sent a thrill of patriotic joy through every true Whig heart in the Union. He came here to-night to mingle his voice with the Whigs of the city and county of Philadelphia, in the grateful celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of Washington. No people upon earth have greater cause to be proud of their peculiar days of national rejoicing than ours. The 4th of July and the 22d of February are days memorable in our history. The one gave us national independence, the other a spirit ardently devoted to the cause of public liberty, which, after many years of toil and suffering, placed the independence of his country upon a firm and enduring basis. But there is another glory which clusters around this day, the first anniversary of which we have in part met to celebrate. The exalted merits and daring deeds displayed on the bloody field of Buena Vista have placed the name of TAYLOR by the side of that of WASHINGTON. Henceforth, in all time to come, the blended glories of Washington and Taylor will command the homage of their countrymen. Who wonders that the American people should indicate the hero of the Rio Grande as their choice for the first office in their gift? A man in all respects so much like Washington! What day more appropriate than the present to throw his banner to the breeze? He richly deserves, and possesses in an eminent degree, the confidence of the American people. His pure and spotless moral character; his ripe judgment; his sound, discriminating mind; his great fund of good, old fashioned common sense; his modesty and simplicity; his benevolence and humanity; his firmness and honesty—beautiful characteristics of our early Republican fathers—prove him to be the man for the times. Sir, I would rejoice to see that man, with his strong arm and honest heart, at the head of the Government. The country demands a pure and honest administration, such as existed in the days of Washington and Madison. But we are told that General Taylor is not a Whig. Who says so? It is not the Democracy; they were satisfied of that fact more than twelve months since. I trust that his letter to Mr. Ingersoll, which was read in your hearing to-night, will hereafter dispel all such fears. Mr. President, I regret to see such charges coming from Whigs. It was not so 12 months ago. A proposition was then pending in Congress to appoint a Lieutenant General, and thereby supersede Gen. Taylor in his command; or, in the language of Mr. Holmes, of S. Carolina, a distinguished Democrat in the House, on that occasion—"Because General Taylor, who had never thought of the Presidency, or of running a race to obtain it, but whose whole life had been spent in the camps and in the field, who had won victory after victory, and added more to the national glory than any other man now liv-

ing, happened unfortunately to be cursed with the name of Whig, he must be superseded and publicly dishonored and disgraced." Such, sir, was then, and for a long time after, the tone of every Whig journal in the Union. Yet, sir, a change has come over them, although General Taylor has repeatedly declared, that "*he was not an ultra partisan Whig, but a Whig in principle.*" This, sir, may not suit the politicians, but the honest old farmers and people of the country will be satisfied; they desire to take a man fresh from themselves, free from the intrigues and corruptions of the times, and elevate him to the Presidency. And, sir, they will do it.

Mr. President, Tennessee stood firm to the Whig cause in the last Presidential contest, when others faltered. She deserted her own son, and supported Mr. Clay. It is true, the majority was only one hundred and thirteen, but, thank God, it was sufficient. Tennessee still loves Mr. Clay more than any living man. He has her undivided heart and confidence, and she is yet ready to do him all honor. But we approach a crisis when the success of Whig principles was of more consequence than that of any member of the Whig party, however elevated he may be. We were told at the close of the last contest that Mr. Clay was satisfied, that he would retire to his own loved Ashland and spend the evening of his days in quiet and repose. Believing that nothing could withdraw him from his own retirement, the people of Tennessee have been looking for another leader to rally them to victory in the approaching contest. They have found that man, and during last summer every leading Whig in the State, with but few exceptions, committed himself to the support of General Taylor. Who, under such circumstances for one moment believes, that the State of Tennessee could be carried again for Mr. Clay? It was useless to disguise the fact, it could not be done. If New York had gone for him before, he would have been elected by three votes. But New York could not elect him now, if he could get every State which voted for him before—Florida, Texas, and Iowa having since been admitted into the Union. With General Taylor we could carry Tennessee by from 10,000 to 15,000 majority. And if the Whig Convention in Philadelphia in June next should nominate him, we can elect him beyond a doubt. Is it then the part of prudence to hazard success by attempting that which may prove fatal to our party and disastrous to the triumph of our long cherished principles? Let us sacrifice every thing of a private or personal character upon the altar of our country's good, and rally as one man around the banner of that gallant old leader who never lost a victory. Your country demands this sacrifice at your hands. If the fearful and wicked policy of this Administration does not meet with a rebuke from the American people in the approaching contest, he would tremble for the safety of his country.

General Taylor has seen many a dark and trying hour in warding off the blows of the Mexicans on the one side, and the Administration on the other. They have sought to overwhelm and crush him, but he has been saved as it were by fire. He has brought down upon his devoted head the denunciations of the Secretary of War and of the whole party, because he dared, in a letter to an old and intimate brother soldier, to complain of their course toward him. An old army order, which had been obsolete for more than twenty years, was instantly revived and insultingly sent to him, by

which he was threatened with dismissal from the service for similar conduct. He informed them in reply that, although the letter was a familiar one, written to an old military friend, with no view to its publication, yet he reiterated every word of it—"that he asked no favors and would shrink from no responsibility." What earthly power can check the mighty tide of popular enthusiasm which is bearing on the people's favorite to a glorious victory—as well might you attempt to dam up the great father of rivers with a straw, as to calm the resistless elements of success which crowd around his banner. To-night you have set this glorious ball in motion; go on, it is the cause of your country; Tennessee sends you greeting, and bids you God speed in this noble cause, and pledges that her sons, upon the Ides of next November, will swell with you the songs of deliverance, in a louder strain than Locofocoism has ever heard. Catch the noble sentiment uttered by your leader on the bloody field of Buena Vista. Amid the shouts of victory and the groans of the dying—when General Wool rushed into his arms and fell upon his bosom, with tears in his eyes and a heart almost too full for utterance, General Taylor exclaimed, "*Oh, General, we never can be beaten when we all pull together!*" Place that sentiment on your banner, and throw it to the wild breeze of heaven, and a victory more glorious than even that of Monterey or Buena Vista awaits you.

J. W. WEBB, Esq., of the N. Y. Courier, in answer to repeated calls, then took the stand. He reviewed at length Mr. Clay's Lexington speech, urging that it had committed Mr. Clay against any acquisition of Mexican territory, and that he was concluded by that speech against signing any treaty contemplating such extension of our boundaries. He then glowingly and eloquently described Gen. Taylor's military achievements, and concluded nearly as follows:

I would not have you suppose, however, that I base General Taylor's fitness for the Presidency solely upon his military achievements. Splendid as they have been, they do not constitute a claim to that high station; nor can military greatness alone ever warrant an intelligent people in bestowing the Chief Magistracy as a reward for mere military services. It cannot be denied, however, that the battles which General Taylor has fought, the victories he has won, and the glory which he has achieved for the American arms, have fixed the inquiring eyes of the nation upon him; and the modesty which he has exhibited in his triumphs, the energy which he has displayed on all fitting occasions, the moderation and discretion which have characterized all his proceedings, and the sound judgment and far-seeing wisdom which are stamped upon all his acts, united to his great simplicity of character as evinced in a long life devoted to his country's service, and his private and public letters and despatches—all combine to make up a character peculiarly fitted for the times and for the circumstance under which his name is presented to the American people.

It has been said, and most truly, of the Father of his Country, that he was always equal to the station in which circumstances placed him. And this remark is peculiarly applicable to General Taylor. His private character and his peculiar fitness for every station in which he has been placed, far more than even his brilliant victories, have won the confidence and the hearts of the people; and whatever the future may bring forth, he is not a close observer

of passing events, who does not perceive in the public mind a well grounded conviction, that, if elevated to the Presidency, General Taylor will administer the Government on broad conservative principles, and restore to it the character and purity which marked the earlier days of the Republic.

Sir, I for one, look upon Gen. Taylor not only as the most available candidate for the coming contest, but I entertain a firm belief that he is, of all other public men, under existing circumstances, the one best fitted for the station at this time, and best calculated to administer the affairs of our country.

With regard to the political character of General Taylor, I consider it as conclusively established as is that of Henry Clay. He is a Whig in the truest and best acceptance of the term; but as he tells us himself, "not an ultra Whig." Mr. President, I rejoice that he is not an ultra Whig. *Ultraism* in politics, in religion, or in any of the relations of life, is neither desirable nor expedient; and that General Taylor is not ultra in his politics, constitutes in my eyes, all Whig as I am, one of his greatest merits. If he be ultra in anything, it must be in the floggings which he has bestowed upon the Mexicans. But even there, he has exhibited a beautiful moderation. He was not *ultra* at *Monterey*; and if at Buena Vista he was somewhat more ultra than the Administration at Washington approved, it must be borne in mind that they had deprived him of most of his means of defence; and when under these circumstances he came in contact with their Mexican General—for such was Santa Anna—we must not be surprised if the old Hero was somewhat *ultra* in the character and extent of the punishment inflicted.

In regard to his strength with the Whigs of New York, I need but refer to the paper which I hold in my hand. Here, sir, (exhibiting a copy of the *Courier and Enquirer*), is a call for a public meeting this evening, signed by more than 3,000 honest, intelligent, and independent Whigs of the city of New York, embracing the wealth, the enterprise, and the industry of the commercial emporium; and I speak advisedly when I say, that every one of this long array of names was appended to the call by the party himself, or by some responsible person duly authorized to act for him. At this very moment, sir, unless prevented by the inclemency of the weather, not less than fifteen thousand honest and true Whigs of your sister city are taking measures to ensure the success of our candidate, and sending up cheers of gratitude and joy whenever the name of the Hero of Buena Vista is uttered by those who are addressing them. We are not alone, then, my fellow Whigs, in this movement in behalf of the Hero of Buena Vista. The people every where are with us; honest, intelligent, and patriotic men of all parties and of all ages and conditions in life, are acting and sympathizing with us in this our labor of love; and we have only to be true to ourselves—true to our principles, and true to him who has ever been true to his country—to ensure his triumphant election to the Presidency in the coming contest.

Gen. BARROW was again called for, and responded in one of the happiest speeches that was ever listened to at a public meeting. It abounded with wit, anecdote, and argument, and elicited at one moment roars of laughter, and at another shouts of applause. He took unequivocal, decided ground in favor of Gen. Taylor as a candidate for the next Presidency, and gave three principal reasons:

First. His honesty and capacity.

Second. His Whig principles.

Third. His certainty of election.

Although the hour was quite late—nearly eleven o'clock—the gifted speaker was listened to with the deepest interest and attention, and he concluded by proposing nine cheers for Old Zack.

These were given in tones of thunder that shook the building, and with three cheers for Barrow, the company adjourned about 11 o'clock, much gratified at the enthusiasm which had been warmed up and the flattering prospects which await the nomination of Gen. Taylor as the Whig candidate for the Presidency.

Letters from distinguished Whigs.

The annexed letters were received, among others, in reply to the following letter of invitation:

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1, 1848.

DEAR SIR: We are instructed by Whigs of Philadelphia, to invite you to a public dinner which they intend giving on the twenty-second of February next—a day rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor.

On this occasion, they will bring forward the name of Gen. Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention. Believing him to be a sound and genuine Whig, and to be eminently qualified for that office by rare traits of character and intellect, they shall be happy to know that their views coincide with yours.

We shall be pleased, should you be able to honor us with your presence on the twenty-second of February next, and to add the influence of your name to a movement which may result in the SALVATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, and the rescue of the Nation and Union from the perils that now surround them.

Very respectfully, your obed't serv'ts,

E. JOY MORRIS,
CHARLES GILPIN,
S. S. KELLY,
GEORGE A. LANDELL,
PETER GLASGOW,
JOHN WISTAR, Jr.,
WILLIAM B. MANN,
GEORGE ERETY,

Committee of Invitation.

From Senator W. C. Rives.

CASTLE HILL, VA., 8th Feb., 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 27th ult., inviting me, in the name of the Whigs of Philadelphia, to a public dinner to be given on the 22d instant; on which occasion you inform me, they intend to bring forward the name of Gen. Zachary Taylor for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention. You are kind enough to add you will be happy to know that my views coincide with those of the Whigs of Philadelphia.

Withdrawn as I am from the walks of public life, I feel, gentlemen, that I owe you more than ordinary acknowledgments for the honor you have done me, both by your invitation and the wish you are pleased to express to know my sentiments on the vitally important question which, at this time, justly engages so much of the public solicitude. My retired position, I am very sensible, renders my opinions of but little moment to the public; but that very circumstance, perhaps, makes me more free to declare them untrammelled by any other obligation than that which rests upon every good citizen to pursue, according to the bestlights of his understanding and conscience, the true interest and happiness of his country. Consulting no monitor but this, I am

happy to say that, in my humble judgment, the Whigs of Philadelphia have wisely discerned the exigencies of the time, and truly interpreted the feelings of the nation, in adopting the name of Gen. Taylor as that which, recommended by a rare union of public virtues and services, has most potency to deliver the country from existing and impending misrule.

No one will more readily and gratefully acknowledge than I do, that the Whig party possesses other distinguished names, illustrated by a long course of honorable public service, and by abilities of the highest order, which well merit and would fitly adorn the Chair of Chief Magistrate of the Nation. But circumstances have given to General Taylor a prominence in the public regard, which none, in my opinion, can successfully dispute with him.

Placed, by the orders of the Government, with a gallant but inadequate force, in successive situations of extreme peril and difficulty, which excited the deepest anxiety of the nation for his safety and that of his brave companions in arms, he extricated his command, in every instance, by prodigies of skill, conduct, and valor which surpassed the most sanguine hopes of his country, and dispelled the clouds of darkness and disaster which seemed to have settled over him, by a blaze of continued victories that illumined the continent. In proportion to the anxiety, approaching to despondency, which was felt for his fate, were the joy and enthusiasm kindled at his brilliant and unexpected success. It seemed as if Providence had permitted him to be placed in these trying circumstances, that the great qualities which his modesty had, in part, concealed, should be brought into brighter day, and made manifest to his countrymen. It was not the qualities of the military hero alone that he displayed, but a group of moral virtues and intellectual powers, which, while they form the brightest ornament of private life, constitute the highest qualifications for public usefulness in stations of civil trust—unerring sagacity, sound judgment, vigorous and never-failing good sense, a thorough knowledge of men derived from the lessons of history and experience; imperturbable firmness, decision, and energy, tempered by moderation and prudence; paternal consideration for all associated with him in the relations of a common service, whether as soldiers or officers; a gentleness of nature that delighted to expand itself in offices of sympathy and kindness when the stern conflicts of war were over; clemency and humanity to the foe in the moment of victory, and a constant and steady aim to *peace*, as the supreme good for his country and race, in all his efforts and operations.

It is not to be wondered at that such a man as General Taylor was thus manifested to be, at once commended himself to the hearts and judgments of his countrymen. The people, feeling instinctively that he was one of themselves, seeing his great services and high qualities set off by a Republican simplicity of character and manners, which recalled the noblest models of ancient virtue—the Catos, the Fabriciuses, the Cincinnatuses, of ancient Rome—took him up, with sagacious and unprompted enthusiasm, as their candidate for the Presidency. In their primary assemblies and in their delegated conventions, in every form of popular demonstration and in every quarter of the Union, they have shown their love and admiration for him. Is it wise, is it safe, is it right, in a Government like ours, founded upon the popular will, to disregard these evidences of the popular preference?

The earnest demand of patriotism every where is

who can redeem the country from the present misrule?—who, with sound principles, possesses most of the public confidence and affection to make him the instrument of delivering the Nation from the evils which now afflict it, and the still greater evils, if possible, with which it is threatened? The answer is, in my opinion, already in great part given by indications which can hardly be mistaken; and in the presence of such a crisis, it cannot be doubted that other attachments and preferences, however long and ardently and honorably cherished, will be cheerfully surrendered on the altar of the public good. If peace be the desire of the country, as surely it is, who has declared or shown himself more unequivocally and earnestly the friend of peace, than General Taylor?—who more likely to employ his anxious efforts to restore the blessings of peace, than he who has witnessed, with a feeling heart, the horrors, calamities, and havoc of war? If, to the minds of any, other evidence should be needed of General Taylor's attachment to the great conservative principles of the Whig party, than is furnished by his known political affinities among the eminent public men of the country, what better Whig, in the highest and noblest sense of the term, can they desire, than one who in the language of General Taylor, would studiously make the Constitution his guide, and zealously labor to bring back the Government to what it was in the days of Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, with the light of those great examples ever before his eyes and in his heart?

Debarred, gentlemen, by distance and interfering engagements, from the pleasure of attending your great meeting called for the 22d instant, allow me, with the expression of my ardent wishes for its patriotic harmony and auspicious results, to subscribe myself, very truly, your friend and fellow citizen,
W. C. RIVES.

To Messrs. E. Joy Morris, Charles Gilpin, S. S. Kelly, George A. Landell, Peter Glasgow, John Wistar, jr., Wm. B. Mann, George Erety, Committee, &c.

From Hon. John Sergeant.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15th, 1848.

DEAR SIRS: Your kind invitation of the 11th, to attend the festival of the 22d instant, in commemoration of the birthday of Washington, and of the greatest achievement of General Taylor, was duly received. It is doubtful whether I shall be able to be with you on the occasion, my engagement here not leaving me at liberty to follow my own strong inclination. My whole heart, however, will be with you. I prefer General Taylor, as the candidate of the Whigs for the Presidency of the United States, to any citizen who has been named.

This is no hasty opinion, thoughtlessly adopted, and adhered to because it has been taken up. It was formed deliberately, with a full sense of the importance of the coming election, and has been confirmed by every thing I have since become acquainted with touching this eminent citizen.

Neither is it upon the ground, singly, or even considerably, that he is the most available candidate; though it must be admitted that, where merits are equal, this is a consideration not to be disregarded. A great and good party, like that of the Whigs, whose sole object is to support the Constitution and promote the welfare of our country, ought not to waste or endanger its strength by the indulgence of personal and individual preferences, however well deserved, if they have a tendency to deprive us of the co-operation of masses

of our fellow-citizens, who agree with us in our general views, but cannot accept the terms which we would make indispensable to mutual aid. The time is coming, if it be not already come, when a power must be raised up, under the Constitution, to check the wild and unconstitutional adventures, begun and prosecuted under the authority of a party convention; or, in the sober judgment of the wisest men among us, we are all in danger of ruin. A war is going on, without any defined purpose, whose duration no one can calculate, the present effect of which is to hold the Republic of Mexico by means of an army, and the consequence must be, to continue for a long period so to hold her, at an immense cost of blood and treasure. Thus, our Government is, at this moment, employed in the management of the affairs of two Republics, instead of one, governing the one with the sword and the other with a constitution and laws. That, such a state of things cannot last without serious damage to ourselves, no one can doubt. It is time it was terminated. Grave cause of regret, indeed, it must be that it ever existed.

But how is such a power to be raised up under the Constitution? It can only be by the ballot-box. And how can it be carried into effect? No otherwise, than by a strong and decided demonstration in the beginning, and then lodging it in hands where it will be preserved, and even increased, and be executed beneficially for the public of the United States, under the guidance of wisdom, patriotism, firmness, and moderation, with an ample portion of public support.

These requirements appear to me to be happily answered by the character and qualifications of General Taylor. In his brief but successful campaign on the Rio Grande he attracted the admiration of the world. He filled up the measure of his fame at Monterey and Buena Vista. His countrymen at once accorded to him one portion of the praise bestowed upon Washington, as, next to him, "the first in war." From that day his name was historical. And who was this great soldier, who in a very few months had achieved such extraordinary distinction? All eyes were turned toward him; his life was eagerly inquired into and scrutinized. And what has it been found to be? A life of duty, devoted to his country and to his fellow men, and without spot or blemish. A life, too, which had every where done them distinguished honor.

It is not to be wondered at, that the hearts of his countrymen were rapidly drawn towards him. Their affection for him was prompt, but it was not inconsiderate, nor bestowed upon an unworthy man. Wise as he is brave; with a heart full of kindness and humanity; free from affectation and selfishness; sympathizing with the sufferings which his duty obliges him to witness, and to the utmost of his power relieving them; doing generous justice to all without jealousy, or the least sinister apprehension of its lessening the estimation of his own merits; conducting every trust reposed in him to a successful issue, without blame or reproach; always obedient to the Constitution and laws—who can doubt that such a man is fitted for the highest employments, and can safely be trusted with the powers of the Chief Executive Magistracy of the Union?

As far as observation has enabled me to discern, this is the judgment of the whole people, and in my opinion a wise and just judgment. I am willing to follow it, and to be thankful that at such a time so

good a man seems to be offered for our relief from the perils which threaten our institutions.

It may be admitted that General Taylor is a soldier—nay, that he is a very great and distinguished soldier. But is this a well-founded objection to him? The notion that profession has a determining influence upon character is, in my humble opinion, neither philosophical nor just, and it has no sanction from experience. Where lust of power is in the heart, or a lawless ambition, it will seek its gratification by the means within its reach, whatever they may be. But that the military profession particularly cultivates the vicious propensity, or affords a tempting scope for its indulgence, all history, and especially our own, contradicts. What shall we say of Washington? What can we say of General Taylor? Who ever heard of his indulging in an outrage, of act or of speech, or having shown an overbearing and arbitrary temper? Always calm, always submissive to the dictates of duty, never for a moment forgetting what he owes to his country and to her laws, and what is due to others, there is no trait in his character so striking as the quiet repose he exhibits in the midst of that commanding energy, which inspires all around him with an unbounded confidence in their leader and devotion to their cause.

Nor is it just to exclude from civil employment, even the highest, all who have worn a sword in the service of their country. Still less would it be politic thus to exclude them, weakening the link that binds them to us, and driving them to conclude that they are a sort of *proscribed* beings, who have nothing to look to but their own swords. The body of youth, who enter into the military service, are fully equal to the like number of any other pursuit; and those educated at West Point can certainly not be outranked by those educated any where else. They are as valuable to society, as dear to their friends and relatives, and as capable of contributing to our social, civil, and political welfare. Let us, therefore, strengthen their civil and social feelings, by showing to them that all the privileges of our free institutions belong to them in common with all others, and that the enjoyment of them requires nothing but that they should do their duty as soldiers and maintain their character as citizens. And when a great and good man, like General Taylor, appears among us, let us, for their further encouragement, make it evident, that his profession constitutes no objection to the highest civil advancement.

Some will say, further—indeed, have said—that General Taylor is not a Whig; and, therefore, cannot be the Whig candidate. This objection, it must be admitted, is entitled to great respect, and should always be treated with that tender caution which is due to each other from the members of our great political family. In this spirit, I would earnestly, but kindly and respectfully, call upon them to remember the condition of our public affairs, and then to consider that the loss of the next presidential election will be a great disaster to our country, and not less to the Whig party, which, with all my long cherished attachment to that party, is the order in which these things are to be regarded. Having made this remark, let us consider how the matter really stands upon the public proofs before us.

We know, then, that General Taylor is not of the opposite party. This is a great deal, and, without dwelling upon it, I leave it to every Whig to consider for himself. The more he ponders upon

it, the weighter he will find it to be. It excludes, at once, a host of dangers which no Whig would be willing to incur.

But, in addition, without personal acquaintance with General Taylor, never having had a communication with him, verbal or written, I firmly believe that he holds our cardinal principles in common with us, and that he holds them with a tenacity which neither fear, nor flattery, nor seduction, nor temptation, will induce him to yield or to relax. His lofty position raises him above them. His characteristic integrity and firmness of purpose render him unassailable by them. They cannot approach him. He is unsurpassed in his estimate of merit, and liberally just in appreciating it, where it is real. In this respect, as well as others, he is more like Washington than any man who has lived since his time.

I am unable to say whether or not General Taylor has declined being the exclusive candidate of a party, nor does it seem to me material. He has never sought to be a candidate at all. The position he occupies has been spontaneously assigned to him by his countrymen. He has not declined it, and I am not satisfied that he is at liberty to change it. Judging from the past history of his life, he will take the post assigned him, and will neither shrink from nor desert it.

One word more, and this long letter will be brought to a conclusion. The next President of the United States, to be able to carry on the Government beneficially to the public, ought, if possible, to come in with a support greater than a mere party election can give, even with the poor precarious addition which success usually brings with it. He should have the country with him. In this view the great and deserved popularity of General Taylor is not to be disregarded nor lightly esteemed, but to be considered as a power to do good. Yours, very truly,

JOHN SERGEANT.

From Hon. J. R. Ingersoll.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16th, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Soon after the adjournment of Congress, last spring, a Whig meeting in Independence Square took occasion to express its exalted opinion of the character of General Taylor. This was done in terms the most unequivocal, and with views too clear to be misunderstood. His name was introduced with honor; his public services were acknowledged with gratitude; his private virtues were recollected with pride. These were not the effusions of personal friendship. Of the numbers who thronged that assembly, probably not an individual had ever seen the man to whom all, with one accord, united in offering a tribute of respect and praise. His sterling qualities had been read in the directness and simplicity of official communications, where his own share was scarcely intimated of the brilliant exploits which they described. Proofs of his merit were manifest in a course of conduct marked by unpretending modesty, and yet so full of moral dignity, that it could not fail to gain for him admiration as well as confidence, to invite reliance upon his clear discernment and sound judgment, not less than esteem for the virtues of his heart. The strong sense of a discriminating people saw in the possessor of these qualities a fitness for the place of their Chief Magistrate, and their wishes were announced in a voice of acclamation, that resounded throughout the land.

Since the occasion referred to, much has occurred to strengthen the impressions then made, and nothing to lessen them. Time and opportunity have been afforded for mature reflection, and it has ripened into conviction. A season has arrived for something more active and effectual than the indulgence of feelings, however ardent, and the expression of respect and attachment, however sincere. It must now be shown whether those generous impulses passed away with the hour that gave them birth, or whether they have expanded into determinations leading directly to great practical results. If gratitude and good-will shall prove to have been only the forerunners of sound judgment; if their lively instincts are approved and confirmed by the calculations of deliberate and judicious reason—every proper motive will concur in prompting immediate, united, and strenuous exertions to give effect to an obvious public will. An occasion the most fitting for an universal declaration of these sentiments, and for placing them so before the country as to dispel the slightest appearance of a doubt, will be presented in the approaching National Anniversary. In obedience to your call, these remarks are submitted with an unhesitating belief in the wisdom and patriotism of your present designs.

It is a source of high satisfaction to a moral and intelligent nation, in selecting a candidate for the office of its Chief Magistrate, that the prominent individual presented for its choice is not only free from any known blemishes of character, but is eminently endowed with personal virtues. Whatever selection may be made, must in some respects be an experiment. In confiding to mortal hands a trust which is new to them, no assurance of fidelity can exist for the future, except as it is derived from the history of the past. An individual cannot in the nature of things be tried in this great office before he is formally invested with its powers and duties. Yet a long public and private career of honesty, as well as honor, must inspire a reliance upon him for a faithful discharge of duty hereafter, and this reliance will be exalted into a firm belief of the highest degree of useful capacity, when it is recollected that on many and various occasions, a prompt and ready self-dependence has been more than justified by the exercise of consummate skill and romantic valor. He who at all times, as far as can be known, has come up to the measure of his trusts—whose trusts have been the most arduous, spirit-stirring, and responsible—may be confided in at all times with uncompromising cordiality by his grateful and admiring countrymen.

In the comparison of qualities for the office of President, some will be found to be indispensable. Others, however valuable in combination with the first and finest endowments of the head and heart, may without serious reluctance be dispensed with, as their secondary existence can be supplied. Experience in the administration of civil affairs may be provided among the Administrative officers who fill a cabinet, if the occupations of the Chief Magistrate have required for the most part an exercise of his faculties in a somewhat different sphere. Discretion and firmness—patriotism and love of truth—discernment of character, and a power to resist at once the temptations of flattery and the inducements to resentment—loftiness, daring, and even grandeur of spirit, with unaffected simplicity of deportment—kindness of feeling, protected by experience of men and knowledge of the world from being betrayed or abused—a willingness to receive counsel, and promptness and capacity to decide

among opposing counsellors—habits of patient investigation of the details of business uninfluenced by caprice or passion—readiness always to act under the influences of enlightened wisdom and unsullied virtue, with coolness, good temper, and unwavering will—these qualities, with a disposition tried and proved, must be sought in the energetic and yet self-controlling character of the head of the cabinet. Such properties do not require for their development or exercise a previous possession of the Executive chair. They are found in the intercourse of private life. They are made manifest in the toilsome discharge of military duties, in the councils of war, in the control of armies by precept and example, and upon the battle-field.

It is not intended here to urge as an argument for selection, the profession of a soldier or the habits of military command. These may exist in a thousand instances, without presenting claims to the high office which constitutionally partakes both of military and civil requisites. But any trying situation may be a test of character. The field of battle, in exhibiting forbearance and moderation under excitement—humanity amidst violence and carnage—and, withal, a supremacy of valor and sagacity which danger cannot disturb or fortune change, may be a school in which the strong mind is disciplined for all emergencies. An ordeal can scarcely be imagined more severe than that which condemns the land to comparative inactivity, while the directing soul and heart and mind are the responsible safe-guards for a thousand and a thousand lives surrounded by consuming fire, by their own composure and unshaken self-command. It is worthy of remark, that the time-worn warrior and veteran British statesman, who lives in dignified old age to read his honored name upon the brightest pages of his country's history, has been far more pacific in his policy than his distinguished associate in public councils, whose habits and education have been remote from war. Nor need we look beyond the eventful annals of this Republic, to discover that the profession of a statesman or of a soldier is no sufficient indication of the policy which as chief magistrate the individual may prefer. Our three wars with christian enemies—those of 1798, 1812, and 1846-7-8, have been waged by Presidents not used to arms. A threat of a similar calamity—in 1794 and 1835—was averted under the auspices of chief magistrates renowned in war. A capitulation wisely and humanely negotiated by the commanding General at Monterey, surrounded and sustained by gallant and accomplished soldiers all prepared for farther conflict, but staying at his orders, the effusion of human blood, was rejected and condemned by a non-combatant Executive in the midst of counsellors of peace.

The moment is propitious to the selection of a candidate. It will enable our friends to preserve the principles and sufficiently to conform to the usages of that political division of the people which we believe to be the true supporters of the best interests of the country; while it may judiciously avoid the extreme evils and trammels, the pledges and promises of party. Our favored candidate declares him self to be "a Whig—not an ultra partisan Whig, but a Whig in principle." It rarely happens that prospects are opened so conducive to success, and so cheering to sound patriotism. A rare combination is presented of popular preference and exalted merit. The certainty of triumph is secured without abandoning cherished and deep-rooted political faith, or compromising any of the

settled doctrines of republican government. The country will be honored, the conservative party will be sustained, and the ardent wishes of the people will be met and gratified. In their sentiments the people are seldom mistaken. Indications are every where to be seen of attachments as warm as the individual toward whom they are entertained is meritorious. If anything were wanting to confirm our belief in these obvious tendencies, and of the result to which they must inevitably lead, it would be found in the anxious solicitude of our watchful opponents. Their tender mercies are any thing but proofs of regard. Their sympathies are syren songs to lure us from the path of rectitude. Let us listen to their advice, gratuitously proffered, only to reject it, and let us adhere to our well-considered preference unmoved by the alarms, if there are any, of mistaken friends, or the unsolicited counsels of treacherous enemies.

I avail myself of the opportunity to place in your hands a correspondence between General Taylor and myself. It will be conveyed to you by a brother Whig who proposes to join in the celebration of the 22d. The papers will fully explain the *complexion of the politics* of your chosen candidate. They will also show, what is far less important, the manner in which, without any agency on my part, the correspondence was brought about.

Believe me to be, faithfully, yours,

J. R. INGERSOLL.

From Senator Archer of Virginia.

AMELIA, VA., Feb. 19, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Owing to accident, your letter of the 27th ult., inviting me to a dinner designed to advance the election of Gen. Zachary Taylor to the Presidency, did not get to my hand till last evening. I fear that my acknowledgment at this late date will not reach you before the 22d, the day of the dinner. I participate so heartily in your purpose, that I cannot, nevertheless, consent to withhold the expression of my concurrence even with the hazard of this result.

There can be no sober-minded politician, Whig or other, but must view the present condition of our public affairs with the deepest solicitude, as presenting an aspect of peril more strongly defined than any which has been exhibited in our history. If Mexico be absorbed and its provinces made members of our confederacy, as is the manifest result of a continued Democratic ascendancy, in the administration of the Government, it requires small sagacity to determine, not that the days of the Confederacy are numbered, but that its fate as regards purity and value, and its ultimate and not late dissolution through distemper and corruption, is sealed.

I see no escape from this detested destiny, but in an immediate change in the National Councils, and I see no assured expedient for effecting this great result, but in the concentration of right-minded men and the Whig Party on Gen. Taylor. Let it be, that men might be found with higher qualifications for civil administration. There is no one who like him can certainly be elected, or who, if elected, could bring the force of position added to that of character, which he will, if elected, bring to the conduct of the Government. Gen. Taylor has a character, and he has standing and favor with the people, which will enable him to be the real Director of affairs, and not the mere instrument of direction.

I have myself no doubt that his administration will conform to the expectations of the Whig Party. In his carrying out their views as respects our redemption from the perils of the Mexican question, I am confident that we shall experience no disappointment.

As regards the qualifications of Gen. Taylor for the functions of civil administration, he has exhibited the highest. Of these, his power of *self-control* ought to rank the first, this being the most essential element in the sound control of others; and when has he been surpassed in its display? Energy so high-toned, yet so serene in its exercise! The spirit of command so absolute, yet so tempered by moderation, simplicity, and kindness, as to be lost in the superior authority of respect and attachment; a Volunteer Force, unused to submission, repugnant to the very forms of constraint, merging the exacerbation and tumult of these dispositions in the stronger development of reverence and affection—awe of the commander in devotion to the father!

This is the man, seemingly vouchsafed to us, to redeem the evils, and avert the perils of the times, that we have it in our power to elect to the Presidency! May your efforts in his cause be triumphant; his course onward!

The Whig Convention in this State convening the day after your dinner, my attendance at the latter would be impracticable from that cause. I thank you for your invitation, and regret that I am precluded from the pleasure of your companionship on an occasion of so much interest.

Corresponding to the above sentiments, I enclose a toast, and am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

W. S. ARCHER.

General Taylor.—The chaplet which adorns the brow for a State preserved, is more honorable than the laurel of victory.

Letter from Hon. E. C. Cabell, of Florida.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 18, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have delayed an acknowledgment of the receipt of your letter of the 28th January, with a hope that I should be able to accept your polite invitation to "a public dinner, which the Whigs of Philadelphia intend giving on the twenty-second of February."

It is with deep regret that I am now compelled to say that it will not be in my power to be with you. My engagements absolutely forbid me to consult my own inclination, and I am reluctantly compelled to forego the pleasure which would be afforded by a meeting of the Whigs of Philadelphia, assembled to "bring forward the name of Gen. Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency."

I believe with you, gentlemen, that "the salvation of the Constitution, and the rescue of the nation and the Union from the perils that now surround them," depend upon the result of the next Presidential election. The hope of the country is on the Whig party. Nothing but the conservative spirit of that party can check the mad career of leucocoism, which wild ambition is urging on to the destruction of our Constitution, to the dissolution of our glorious confederacy.

Let there be a "union of the Whigs for the sake of the Union;" for the sake of the sacred cause of freedom—for the sake of the cause of man.

The triumph of the Whig party, upon which de-

pends so much that is dear to us, to our country, and to mankind, should be the *first and single* object of every true Whig.

It will be vain for us to array ourselves under the banner of a leader who inspires in the hearts of his followers even enthusiastic admiration, if we feel that we must perish with him.

We should forget all personal preferences and individual attachments, and choose as our standard bearer a chief who will enlist in our cause a force which will overwhelm our opponents and lead us on to certain victory.

Such a leader *we may have*—a man good, brave, and true—true to our cause, true to our country.

Many of the friends of "the distinguished statesman of the West," inspired by a feeling of devoted admiration for his mighty genius, would have us again select Mr. Clay as our candidate for the Presidency. But they forget the history of the past. Can they hope that the Whig party will be more united in his support than they were in 1844? Can they expect the same enthusiasm which then animated his friends? Can they point to a single State in which Mr. Clay is stronger than in '44?

It is said that the divisions in the Democratic ranks will secure the vote of New York for Mr. Clay. I doubt it. But grant it. Is there a *shadow of hope* that he can carry Tennessee, Florida, Iowa, or Wisconsin? Without these States *New York* cannot elect him. Admit the *possibility* of his election, does any man dream that we can elect a Whig Congress? Can the Whigs of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and other Northern States, hope to do better than they did at the last Congressional election? We at the South cannot do so well. How powerless would be Mr. Clay's administration with both Houses of Congress against him! It is said that New York was "lost to Mr. Clay by fraud." Suppose her electoral vote had been cast for him. He would have been President with an overwhelming majority in the Senate and House of Representatives against him.

Mr. Clay's friends are deceived by the evidences of popular admiration which we see wherever he goes. His journey to this city was like a triumphal march. His presence electrifies all who approach him. "No man ever had such friends." *No man ever had such ENEMIES!* Against him every element of opposition will be united. In 1844 the Democratic party did not vote for Mr. Polk; they voted *against Mr. Clay*. It may be said of Mr. C. that while he is the most popular he is the most *unpopular* man in the United States. He obtained more votes in most, perhaps all, of the States than the Whig gubernatorial candidates. Yet he was defeated. The Whig party lost the Congressional elections when *his name* was before the people; when it was withdrawn, they secured a majority in the House of Representatives.

Had not General Taylor's name been brought so prominently before the country, it is possible that the Whig party might have elected Judge McLean, or some other distinguished Whig. But General Taylor has such a hold upon the affections of the people, who have already nominated him in their hearts, that *no other Whig can be elected*. Some months ago his name was placed at the head of the columns of nearly every Whig paper in the Union. Thousands of our people *committed* themselves to his support. They do not understand *why* his name should be withdrawn to give place to another. Politicians may abandon him, but the *people will not*.

It is said "General Taylor may not be a Whig." *Who doubts* that he is? You say you "believe him to be a sound and genuine Whig." *Who does not?* Those of our party most violently opposed to his nomination "have no doubt he is a Whig." *Every one* says he "believes him a Whig," but they "are afraid *somebody else* won't think so." This doubt, first suggested by Democrats, who know that General Taylor can defeat their party, is now expressed by our friends who prefer, as they have the right, some other Whig should be elected President. General Taylor is a Whig, ever has been a Whig, always will be a Whig. He has repeatedly so declared himself, and there can be no doubt that his administration will be conducted on the true, republican, constitutional, and patriotic principles of the Whig party. Why, then, should we not give him our cordial support? No one doubts that he will be elected if nominated. Those States having large Whig majorities will vote for the Whig candidate. Gen. T. will give us strength where we most need it. He and no other Whig can secure the vote of many of the Southern and Western States. With him we can secure a majority in the House of Representatives of the next Congress, and overcome the large Democratic majority in the Senate. We shall secure Whig Senators from Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Tennessee, Florida, and perhaps Illinois. Without him we shall lose these, and probably North Carolina and other States. With him we shall bring many of the new to the aid of the conservatism of the Atlantic States, and thus establish for years the wholesome principles of our party. Without him we shall perpetuate the disastrous rule of Locofocoism, which threatens to bring calamities upon our country, which sadden and sicken the heart of every true patriot. We should not jeopard our cause, upon the success of which the welfare of our country depends. We have to choose certain triumph under General Taylor, or defeat under some other Whig leader. I do not doubt the result. The National Convention, in June, will ratify what the people have done. They have already nominated General Taylor, and the current of popular sentiment which bears him onward to the Presidency will sweep every obstacle before it. Our candidate will be elected and our country saved.

Apologizing for the length of this letter, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. C. CABELL.

From the Hon. Willoughby Newton, of Virginia.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VA.,

February 10, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of invitation to a public dinner, proposed to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia, on the 22d of February, on which occasion, you inform me, they intend to bring for ward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency. Concurring most heartily in the object proposed to be accomplished by the patriotic Whigs of Philadelphia, it would afford me unalloyed pleasure to unite in their counsels on this interesting occasion. I shall, however, be compelled to forego this gratification, and must content myself with submitting, in this form, to my political brethren, a few thoughts suggested by the present state of parties, and of the country. In selecting a candidate for the Presidency at this particular juncture, we have a very delicate task to perform. The party in power is strongly intrenched, sustained by a vigilant press, boundless patronage,

and thorough organization. Fortune, too, seems to have crowned with success all their enterprises. Free trade, forced upon Europe by a visitation of Providence, and the cries of starving millions, is claimed as an evidence of the sagacity of the administration; and the victories of our armies in Mexico, achieved by the skill and valor of our brave officers and troops under circumstances the most discouraging, are seized upon to add a military wreath to the chaplet of civil glory, that, in the estimation of his unthinking partisans, already adorns the brow of the President. Among ourselves it cannot be denied that there is some diversity of sentiment as to men, and in the minds of some of our friends no little embarrassment as to the precise issues to be pressed at the coming canvass. A kind Providence has placed within our reach the means of counteracting this limited influence, and raised up in the person of Zachary Taylor a candidate for the crisis. His prudence in counsel, his valor, and almost miraculous achievements in the field, his humanity to the sick, the wounded, and the vanquished; the modest simplicity and elegance of his public despatches, in which he has exhibited capacity for civil as well as military command; and, above all, his moderation, whilst they challenge universal admiration, have excited the sympathy of his countrymen, and will secure for him the suffrage of a large majority of the people of the United States. That he has never mingled in the conflicts of party is one of his chief recommendations; and it is not surprising that, with all his just renown, he is not acceptable as a candidate for the Presidency to *ultra partisans* on either side. If he were so, he would not be the man for the times.

He has avowed himself a *Whig*, yet some over ardent politicians insist that he shall commit himself further. In my opinion there could be no better evidence of his good sense and patriotism, than his refusal, at this juncture, to pledge himself to any specific measures. When such measures are actually pending before the country, I deem it the duty of public men to meet them with the utmost frankness. But there are seasons for deliberation as well as for action, and this is emphatically a period in the history of our country which demands a pause for reflection, that the minds of the nation may be brought to act on our affairs with due deliberation. This is an age of progress, not only in our own country, but throughout the world; and the politician who slavishly binds himself to a prescribed set of measures, without reference to the ever changing circumstances that surround him, will often find himself lagging behind the times. He, and he only, is a wise statesman, who, observing with care the progress of events at home and abroad, calmly considers the effects of public measures on the prosperity of his country, and is ready at all times to profit by his own experience, or that of others. But to what measures shall he commit himself? To Bank, Tariff, and Distribution, the issues of 1840 and '44? These, if not now obsolete, are at least indefinitely postponed. Shall he commit himself to the indiscriminate proscription of his political opponents? This would be inconsistent with his character for moderation, and would defeat the very end we have in view—his success. Shall he commit himself to any specific policy in the conduct of our foreign relations, particularly in the settlement of our difficulties with Mexico? We should be just to Mexico, and trust to ourselves, and no man need require a pledge of Zacha-

ry Taylor that he will not disgrace himself, or dishonor us. A wise statesman should especially keep himself untrammelled in the management of foreign affairs, and perfectly at liberty, without violating any pledge, to take 54 40, or 49, as justice, honor, and the circumstances of the time may render proper. That he is opposed to the conquest of Mexico is well known; that he is in favor of a speedy, just, and honorable peace, he has publicly avowed; and I should be unwilling to extend to him my support, if I could not trust to his moderation, patriotism, and sense of justice, the terms of a treaty of peace. He is a Whig in its true sense, that is, conservative; opposed to the wild, anarchical, and agrarian schemes of the day, whose projectors, whilst they are always preaching the "largest liberty," are ever ready to concede to the Executive the powers of an unlimited despot. If moderate men, who have hitherto called themselves Democrats, can unite with us on this broad conservative platform, let us not repel them. The election of General Taylor would usher in another era of good feeling, would banish from private circles the bitterness of party spirit, and friends would no longer look at each other with coldness and distrust, because they chanced to differ in political sentiment. This I should esteem a great moral and social reform, worthy of all our energy and zeal. But I have already taxed your patience too far. Will you excuse me, gentlemen, in conclusion, for bringing to the notice of the Whigs of Philadelphia the name of a distinguished gentleman as a suitable candidate for the Vice Presidency—Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts—a true American statesman, of eminent ability, of courteous manners, of spotless integrity; who, whilst he maintains with manly firmness the opinions and interests of his own section of the Union, has a heart and understanding sufficiently capacious to embrace the interests of his "country, however bounded." The history of our glorious revolution attests what Virginia and Massachusetts have accomplished by a union of counsels and of action. Looking to the past with just pride, and to the future with animating hope, I offer you the following sentiment:

Taylor and Winthrop—Virginia and Massachusetts—united, invincible! I am, gentlemen, with high respect, your friend and fellow-citizen.

WILLOUGHBY NEWTON.

From Hon. A. S. Fulton, of Virginia.

HOUSE OF REPS., Feb. 15, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I received your favor of the 28th ultimo, inviting me to a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d inst., on which occasion you state, "they will bring forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention." I regret that circumstances beyond my control will debar me the pleasure of being with you on that occasion. I am happy, however, to inform you, that I fully concur with you in the selection of General Taylor as a candidate for the next Presidency. In the present condition of our public affairs, I believe he is the only man to whom the country can look, with a confident hope to rescue it from the fatal consequences of the policy of this Administration. From a state of peace and prosperity, which existed when the present Administration came into power, we find the country involved in the prosecution of a foreign war, which, if it shall continue, must result in the entire subjugation of a sister Republic; our Treasury exhausted; the ordinary resources of revenue

inadequate to the wants of the country; the Government a borrower; and if the war *must* be prosecuted until the Administration should think fit to take "indemnity" into its own hands, direct taxes must follow. But the evil will not stop there; the fruits of all their labors at last will be the acquisition of foreign territory by conquest. Who, that has not dashed from him every hope which hangs upon our experiment of civil liberty, can look with indifference at such a crisis? And what man in the nation, in whose firmness, judgment, patriotism, and virtue, can we rely, to check the mad current which is sweeping us on to destruction? I answer, that the *people* point to General Zachary Taylor. He is already before the country, without any agency of his own, or that of the trading politicians. I doubt whether a nomination by a National Convention will give General Taylor any additional prominence, or add to his chance of success; but many of his friends think otherwise, and I am content to defer to their better judgments, for I cannot entertain a doubt, under existing circumstances, as to his nomination by that Convention. I believe General Taylor will, as he has said, "go for the country, the whole country," and "by a strict observance of the Constitution, will make us prosperous at home and respected abroad."

I tender you, gentlemen, my thanks for the polite invitation with which you have honored me, and in conclusion offer the following sentiment:

Gen. Zachary Taylor—the man who "asks no favors, and shrinks from no responsibility."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
AND. S. FULTON.

From the Hon. J. W. Crisfield.

HOUSE OF REPS., Feb. 18, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to a public dinner, to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d inst., on which occasion they propose to bring forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention.

You have not, gentlemen, in my opinion, overestimated the admirable traits of character and great public services of the distinguished individual referred to. The wisdom, prudence, and firmness which he has exhibited in so remarkable a degree, under the most trying circumstances, and his political principles, which accord with the doctrines and policy of the Whigs, eminently qualify him for the high trust you would confer upon him, and afford the most satisfactory assurance that, under his administration, the Constitution, honor, and all the great interests of the country would be safe; while his ardent patriotism and brilliant achievements have so won the affections of the American people, that success under his banner, if not absolutely certain, is far more probable than under the lead of any other.

Sympathizing with the Whigs of Philadelphia in the object they have in view, and admiring the manner by which they propose to accomplish it, it would afford me great pleasure to be present, and participate in their proceedings, but from the imperative nature of my duties here I am reluctantly compelled to forego that pleasure.

Tender to those you represent my best wishes for success in the great cause in which they have embarked; and accept for yourselves, gentlemen, assurances of the respect of your obedient servant,

J. W. CRISFIELD.

From H. D. Maxwell, Esq.

EASTON, PA., Feb. 14, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your kind invitation to the Whig Festival to be held in Philadelphia on the 22d inst., was duly received. For the honor conferred please accept my thanks. I most heartily approve of the object of your meeting. Believing with you that "General Zachary Taylor is a sound and genuine Whig, and eminently qualified for the office of the Presidency," I have been long satisfied that it will be the true policy of the Whig party to have him selected as our candidate by the National Convention. With him for our standard bearer, I feel confident that our success will be certain; and with the best interests of our beloved Republic so deeply at stake, as they are in the coming contest, it behooves us to make sure work if possible. I hope to be with you on the 22d.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

H. D. MAXWELL.

From Hon. G. Duncan, of Louisville district, Ky.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Circumstances beyond my control place it out of my power to accept your invitation for the 22d. But I shall be with you in spirit, and you may rely that, within the limited range of my influence, my best energies will be devoted to the cause in which you will on that day be engaged. I agree with you most cordially in the sentiment, that Gen. Taylor is eminently well qualified to discharge the duties of President. His venerable father moved to Jefferson county, Ky., at an early day, aided in the formation of the constitution of that State, there reared his family, and lived to a good old age, respected, beloved, and honored, by a very large circle. The testimony of that neighborhood is entitled to some weight in forming a just estimate of General Taylor's character. The people of that county have responded plainly to the various nominations made elsewhere, by persons less intimately acquainted with him, and they say, without a dissenting voice, that he is worthy of all the confidence, and all the affectionate regard, that have been manifested towards him with so much enthusiasm. They feel proud that one of their number has developed those rare and noble traits of character which have commanded the admiration of all good men.

His independence, his coolness, his firmness of purpose, his common sense, appear to be equalled only by his modesty, his goodness of heart, his lofty patriotism, and his strong sense of justice.

One who was born, and who has always lived within a few miles of his venerable homestead, may be pardoned for saying, that long before General Taylor became the subject of universal attention, he was regarded as an individual remarkable for the sternness of his integrity. Long before he had developed the other strong lines of character by which he has been rendered so illustrious, it was often said of him, by his neighbors and friends, that his peculiar characteristic was his remarkable hatred and scorn of a mean man or a mean action.

I consider it proper to add, that, in my judgment, the large mass of the Whigs of Kentucky (and I believe nine-tenths of them) look to him who, as a General, "never surrenders," and, as a man, "asks no favors, and shrinks from no responsibility," as the best person for the Whigs to rally upon at this time, to save the Constitution, and to put down the misrule under which our country has so long suffered.

With respect, &c.,

GARNETT DUNCAN.

From Hon. Andrew Stewart, of Pennsylvania.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Feb. 15, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter, inviting me to a Taylor Whig festival on the 22d inst., is received.

My public duties permitting, nothing, I assure you, could give me more pleasure than to be with you on that occasion.

There is something auspicious and cheering in the association, on that day, of the names of *Washington and Taylor*—the two men, "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of their countrymen."

Allow me to congratulate you and the country on the brightening prospects of the Whigs. The conviction is becoming general that our institutions can not survive another Whig defeat; that five years more of present misrule will involve the country in irremediable ruin. In such a crisis, *success is every thing—men nothing*. "Give us the man who can lead us to a *certain* victory, and save the Constitution," is now the demand of every true Whig.

To be effective, our majority must be decisive and controlling. Any administration, to be successful, must be sustained by the people; let their wishes then be consulted and adopted. On the 7th day of June, in "Independence Hall," let there be a "Union of the Whigs for the sake of the Union." On that auspicious day, and in that consecrated hall, let all personal preferences and purposes be sacrificed on the altar of our country. Let the "Whig National Convention" respond to the *National Will* by nominating the *people's favorite*, and they will elect him by an overwhelming majority.

Every thing valuable in our institutions is at stake. Look at the alarming condition of things. The expenses of the Government at this moment actually exceeding, by *forty millions of dollars*, its entire revenue, requiring from Pennsylvania, as her quota, *four millions* a year, being three times the amount of her present heavy State taxation, and equal to *ten dollars* per annum for every tax payer in the U. States. Can the people bear this additional burden? To borrow is but to postpone and aggravate the evils of taxation when they come. An increase of the tariff, or *direct* taxation, is the only alternative. Can the tariff be increased during this administration? I fear not. The remedy is with the people—the power is in their own hands—and they must exert it for their own deliverance, by the elevation of that plain republican, pure patriot, illustrious hero, and *honest man*, General Taylor, to the Presidency; when, under the auspices of the *second Washington*, our Government will be brought back to the purer principles and better policy of the first. Very respectfully, your most ob't servant,

A. STEWART.

TOAST.—*The Will of the People*—the only true sovereignty—"let it be carried out."

From J. W. Thomson, of Delaware.

WILMINGTON, Feb. 22d, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your very polite and flattering note of the 12th ult. was duly received, inviting me to a public dinner to be given this day by the Whigs of Philadelphia, in commemoration of "the blended glories of Washington and Taylor."

To be present, and to participate at any time with Philadelphia Whigs in their demonstrations of regard for Whig principles, or patriotic Whigs who have faithfully, honestly, and eminently served their

country, would at any time be highly gratifying to me—"much more so when they assemble to celebrate the birthday of the Father of his country, and to associate with it a name now upon the lips and treasured in the hearts of his countrymen"—who, upon the heights of Buena Vista, in glory and renown, led our armies to victory, and has doubly endeared this anniversary in all time to come.

To preserve and perpetuate the Constitution, liberty, and laws bequeathed us by the departed Fathers of the Revolution, soon are the Whigs of the Union again to assemble in National Convention—in your time honored Hall of Independence—and confirm the nomination of one, from a host of names worthy the honor and place of the first President of the Republic. "Having no favors to ask, and fearing no responsibility," let them but respond to the popular will clearly indicated; then will the Constitution be preserved, and our glorious Union be perpetuated. As I cannot be with you at the festive board, if worthy of your consideration, I offer you this sentiment:

Presidential Nominations.—Let the nation make them, and National Conventions be but the executors of the National Will.

Most respectfully, and truly, yours, &c.,
JAMES W. THOMPSON.

From Hon. J. Dixon Roman, of Maryland.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, Feb. 21, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I received your kind invitation to attend a public dinner, to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d inst., and delay my reply in the hope of being with you, but find I cannot.

As to the Presidency, I regard the vote of Maryland as safe for the Whig candidate, whoever he may be. In the western district, however, a majority of the people have evinced a preference for Gen. Taylor, and I concur in the propriety of his nomination, well satisfied that his political sentiments sufficiently accord with those of the Whig party.

I know there are many who insist on a more definite expression of his views on various subjects. But we should remember that the necessity for such an inquiry is the worst feature, the leading vice of modern Democracy. For it arises solely from the abuse of the veto—whereby the President has overshadowed the legislative branch of the Government—his *opinions* have become more potent than those of Congress. The constitutional scruples of his *tender conscience* have been the constant *pretexts* for defeating and controlling the legislative power. Hence the anxiety of the country to ascertain his views.

But let the country retrace its steps, and preserve the landmarks of the Constitution. Let Congress legislate, and the President execute; let his conscience, like that of a judge, be subordinate to the Constitution, according to its well settled constructions. In a word, let us return to the practice of our early Presidents, which General Taylor has promised to do, and we shall have attained one leading, fundamental article of the Whig faith, which brings all the others within our reach through the legitimate action of Congress. With such a President, shades of difference in his opinions will be of small importance.

I believe General Taylor is a man such as we require; his energy and prudence qualify him for the Executive duties, and that *conspicuous modesty of character* so universally admired, is a safe guarantee

that he will not abuse the veto, nor grasp forbidden powers.

Accept, gentlemen, for yourselves, and those you represent, my thanks for the honor of your invitation, and believe me, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
J. DIXON ROMAN.

Letter of N. Middleswarth.

HARRISBURG, February, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your letter of invitation, to attend the public dinner which the Whigs of Philadelphia intend giving on the 22d inst., and I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the kind feelings thus manifested towards me.

I assure you, gentlemen, it would afford me great pleasure to join the Whigs of Philadelphia in any movement which may result in the salvation of the Constitution, and the rescue of the nation and Union from the perils which surround them; but the duties required of me in the situation I now occupy, will prevent me the pleasure of accepting your kind invitation.

In thus declining the invitation with which you have honored me, it is but due to add, that, in the event of General Taylor being nominated for the Presidency by the Whig National Convention, and he agreeing to accept the nomination, and becoming the regular Whig candidate, no one will more zealously and warmly support him than I shall.

Allow me, in conclusion, to ask you to present the following sentiment, in my name, to those assembled at your festival on the next anniversary of Washington's birth day.

With great respect, I remain your humble serv't,
NER MIDDLESWARTH.

The next President of the United States—May he be a *Whig*, with *honesty* and *nerve* enough to carry out *Whig* principles.

From Hon. J. S. Pendleton, of Va.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 13, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I had the honor to receive, some days ago, your invitation to a public dinner, to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d day of this month—a day, as you very properly observe, rendered "doubly memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor."

You remark, also, that the Whigs whom you represent propose "on that occasion to bring forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention." You are obliging enough to express also the wish that my opinions may coincide with your own on this subject.

I concur with you, that a Whig National Convention—always the safest, fairest, and most convenient mode of indicating a candidate for a national party—is, at the present moment, an indispensable means of securing our harmony and efficiency. That the convention system is liable to objections, cannot be denied—and in so much it resembles all human institutions of which I have any knowledge—but it is nevertheless the best plan yet tried, and the only plan by which any party in this country has been able to elect a President for twenty years past.

I believe with you, also, that General Taylor—being the nominee of such a convention—will prove a stronger candidate than any man of our party.

I believe this to be true, not only of the section

in which he lives, but of every section and of every State in the Confederacy; and I am therefore of opinion, that we had better nominate him at once, and thus present a rallying point to our friends, and to all who may be disposed to come to us.

For myself, I seek to avoid, above all things, the position of mere partisanship to any leader. There are some scores of gentlemen of my acquaintance, any one of whom would be a candidate good enough for me, and good enough to make a far better President than any we have had since I was old enough to observe and understand anything of such matters. Amongst all these, my opinion is that Gen. Taylor is the most available, and I am therefore for him.

I am very far from entertaining an opinion that the Whig party is now, or will be next fall, so strong as to be able to disregard the suggestions of a sound policy in the selection of a candidate who *can be elected*. The idea that we can elect *any body*, is in my opinion not at all less visionary than the same idea has proved to be in other cases, in which we have been most signally defeated. We can elect our candidates if we *make a proper selection*.

For one, I am content to see the triumph of the Whig party in the person of any sound and respectable Whig, and I am prepared to receive the endorsement of a Whig National Convention as a sufficient guaranty on both points.

General Taylor will not receive that endorsement on light or questionable evidence.

Let us then go into the convention in a spirit of concession and compromise—prepared to abate something of extreme demand—to hear and consider the opinions and testimony of one another, and with all the lights before us, agree on our strongest man, and then support him with all our might. We shall thus *deserve*, if we do not secure, success.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. PENDLETON.

From Hon. John W. Houston, of Del.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19th, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to receive your polite invitation to a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d instant, on which occasion you inform me "they will bring forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention," and I regret to state that circumstances beyond my control will deprive me of the pleasure of accepting it.

And here, gentlemen, I might very properly perhaps terminate my answer to your invitation, but as you request an expression of my opinions on the subject of the nomination, I do not feel at liberty to withhold them. In regard to the nomination of General Taylor by the Whig National Convention, I am free to say that I have had but one opinion for some time past, and that is clearly and unequivocally in favor of his nomination. I do not deem it necessary on this occasion to accompany the foregoing remark with any expression of my personal predilections and former political preferences, as they are common to us all, and are shared, I presume, by every Whig in the country. But the success of the Whig party in the next Presidential canvass is essential, in my opinion, to the existence of the Union, and waiving every consideration of a minor and subordinate importance, I go for the nomination of General Taylor as the

most available, and in fact, an *invincible* candidate. I can admire the courage, and respect the scruples of such abstract patriots as would rather be defeated with a favorite candidate than succeed with one less acceptable to them; but as I do not propose, in such a contest, to vindicate the principles which I profess, by the pious honors of defeat and martyrdom, I shall be excused, I trust, for attaching so much unimportance to the mere question of availability, and for ranging myself under the banner of one who never has been, and in my judgment never can be beaten—that is, "when we all pull together."

As to the political sentiments of General Taylor, I have no doubt about them. His heart cannot but be entirely with us, and his well-known determination not to run against any candidate who may be nominated by our party, settles the matter. But I do not rest my judgment on this fact alone, for I have just as little doubt that he who "asks no favors, and who shrinks from no responsibility," will in due time announce them to the country, and when announced, they will prove as satisfactory as they will prove patriotic, or I am greatly mistaken in all the inferences which I have derived from the study of his character and his declarations.

In regard to the objection started by some of our friends, that he is a "military candidate," I would beg leave to say, with all due deference to those who urge it, that it is rather late in the day to raise it, since the authors of our liberty and independence, and the framers of the Constitution, were the first to set us the example of electing a military chieftain to the highest office in the gift of the people; and although I would not presume to compare General Taylor, or any other man, dead or alive, to General Washington, yet I will say, that when the private and moral character of the man is without blemish, and without reproach, and he has proved by a long life of strict sobriety and subjection to the laws of his country and the authority of his Government, that he is a plain, unambitious, and patriotic American citizen, who knows how to conduct himself in time of peace with all "the modest stillness which becomes a soldier," it strikes me that the objection is but a nominal one. That such is pre-eminently the character of General Taylor, no one will pretend to deny who is at all acquainted with his history, and who has a disposition to do him justice.

But I feel, gentlemen, that I have trespassed too long upon your patience in detailing my views upon the important question submitted to me, and will therefore draw them to a conclusion.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN W. HOUSTON.

From the Hon. G. G. Dunn, of Indiana.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, Feb. 8, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter inviting me to a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d instant, on which occasion they propose to bring forward the name of General Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of the National Convention, is received.

Permit me to express to you my grateful acknowledgments for this unlooked-for and unmerited mark of kindness and consideration.

You most truly observe that the 22d of February is now "a day rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories" of two great and good men—Washington and Taylor—two names, that from the many points of resemblance in the characters

of their possessors, ought to be blended together and cherished together.

There is scarcely a temporal wish which I entertain more earnestly than that the same opportunity to serve his country in her Civil Department may be awarded to Gen. Taylor that was enjoyed by the venerated Washington as Chief Magistrate. For I am persuaded that, as in the latter we found a wise and faithful guardian of our, once, happy institutions, in their weak and nerveless infancy, so in the former we should have an able and devoted public servant, and sure restorer of those, now, diseased and sinking institutions to their purity, healthfulness, and strength, as they were in the best days of the Republic.

Amongst all our public men—and I do not say so to disparage any of them in the least—there is not one, in my humble judgment, from whom so much can reasonably be hoped in rescuing this Government from the terrible evils which threaten it, as from this distinguished patriot. His strong love of country and devotion to the public service, as shown in a long, laborious, and dangerous career of uninterrupted and brilliant success, wrought by his own consummate energy, fortitude, and skill, under the most trying circumstances; his sound, discriminating, comprehensive views, and strong common sense, as exhibited in his voluminous correspondence, official and friendly, recently published; his noble generosity and humanity, as manifested on all occasions towards the vanquished, and the unfortunate victims of war, whether friends or foes; his plain, republican simplicity, and personal purity of character; his truthfulness, justice, moderation, firmness, and manly independence, as presented in every act of his eventful and useful life; his entire disconnection, heretofore, with any of the unhappy party contests, fraught with so much public mischief and private animosity; his freedom from those unfortunate biases and prejudices which a long association with party organizations unavoidably engenders; the conformity of his political opinions with those of the fathers of the Republic—all, *all* give assurance that in him we should have an *American* President, and one in whom *every* American citizen could confide, and entertain a just and noble pride. Under the administration of such a man we might certainly hope to see the whole people again coming together in harmony, with patriotic ardor and a common purpose, to save the country and our sacred Constitution from ruin and final overthrow. Could this be, we might have *faith* that our free and happy form of government would be perpetual. Unless some such fortunate event shall unite this great but distracted people speedily, in a common and earnest effort for the *general* welfare, there is too much reason to fear that our experiment at popular liberty is soon to fail. With that failure, all hope in such institutions as ours must perish forever.

Solemnly impressed with these considerations, I had sincerely wished that the decided demonstrations, in primary assemblies and otherwise, by the people all over this Union, in favor of General Taylor, would have settled this question, without the necessity of holding a general Convention of the nation to give him a formal nomination. An election thus spontaneous would have been as noble as it is a merited tribute to the rare combination of marked excellencies in the character of that venerable man. The influence of existing circumstances, however, seem to require a different course. To that necessity I yield. But, at the same time, it is

respectfully submitted whether such a convention should assume to do more than simply to endorse the popular will upon this subject, and give form and energy to operations designed to ensure the triumph of that popular will over the intrigues and corrupt combinations which will be employed to defeat it, no matter how presented.

Having thus fully and freely expressed myself, you will readily perceive how cordially my feelings and wishes co-operate, with your purposes in that matter. And I am highly gratified at the firm and decided stand intended to be taken upon it by the patriotic Whigs of Philadelphia.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I have to regret that I cannot, with propriety, avail myself of your hospitality upon this occasion. Please receive assurances of the profound respect entertained for each of you, and for those you represent, by your most obedient and humble servant,

GEO. G. DUNN.

From Peter F. Causey.

MILFORD, Feb. 17, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I am honored by you, as a committee on behalf of the Whigs of Philadelphia, with an invitation to join in a public dinner to be given by them on the 22d instant, on which occasion you propose to bring forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention.

In this sentiment I truly concur with the Whigs of Philadelphia, not doubting for one moment but that the Whigs of Delaware will sustain "old Rough and Ready" in any battle or contest that he may be placed, and especially in that of a candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

Previous engagements forbid my entertaining a hope of being present with you on said occasion; therefore please accept my thanks for the honor thus conferred on me, and my best wishes for the interest of the whole Whig family.

Most respectfully, your obt servant,
PETER F. CAUSEY.

From the Hon. W. L. Goggin, of Va.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 4th, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter inviting me to be present on the 22d instant as one of your guests, at a public dinner in the city of Philadelphia, "the day rendered memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor," was duly received; and it will afford me much pleasure to be with you, if I find no obstacle to my leaving my public duties here about that time.

General Taylor is a native of my district, having been born in the county of Orange, in Virginia, and I feel therefore a strong inducement, independent of other considerations, to unite with you in honoring the man who has so signally advanced and illustrated the pages of his country's history. His name has already been presented by thousands of his fellow-citizens as a candidate for the highest office within their gift. The indications of public sentiment are favorable to the hope that your movement will meet with a friendly response from the great body of the people, and that your choice will be ratified by them in the coming election.

While many of us might prefer other distinguished individuals, and particularly that other native of the Old Dominion, and now adopted son of Kentucky, yet this is no time to expend our strength in unavailing differences of opinion as to men. If General Taylor be, as you say he is, a

sound and genuine Whig—if he be, as he has said he is, a *Clay Whig*—as he has shown himself on all occasions to be a law-loving and a law-abiding man, with talents “to write as well as to fight,” asking no favors and shrinking from no responsibility, I can see no reason why all may not unite in his support.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Your obedient servant,
W. L. GOGGIN.

From the Hon. Thomas S. Flournoy, of Virginia.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 12th, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I regret that it is out of my power to accept your invitation to be present at a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d—a day, as you justly remark, rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor. It is a just and proper association, for Taylor is second only to Washington in the affections of his countrymen. I most cordially concur with the Whigs of Philadelphia in the propriety of placing his name before the country as a candidate for the Presidency; his rare traits of character and intellect fit him peculiarly for that distinguished station, and give assurance of a wise and just administration of the Government. I doubt not that General Taylor is at this time the choice of a large majority of the American people for the high office to which you propose, with the concurrence and aid of the Whigs of the Union, to elevate him. Under his banner victory is certain; and when elected, though a *decided Whig*, he will not be the *President of a Party, but of the Nation*. The manifestations of preference for General Taylor as the Whig candidate for the Presidency are too plain to be mistaken, and too strong to be counteracted by party machinery. The people have taken the lead in this great movement, which I hope and believe will “result in the salvation of the Constitution, and the rescue of the nation and Union from the perils that now surround them.”

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOMAS S. FLOURNOY.

Permit me, gentlemen, through you, to offer the following sentiment:

General Zachary Taylor—His unrivalled military achievements entitle him to the nation's gratitude; his moderation and wisdom to the highest office within its gift.

From Hon. Alexander Evans.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, Feb. 17, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I am honored by your polite invitation to attend a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d instant. I regret that I cannot attend. I am rejoiced to learn, from your letter to me, that, upon that occasion, you design to bring forward the name of Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency on the part of the Whigs. That design has my entire approbation. The very diffidence of the man—his poor estimate of his own abilities and capabilities—have for me an inexpressible charm, and one that is enhanced in my estimation from its marked contrast to that fidgety fear of under-appreciation that is displayed by so many public men of the time.

The alarming growth and the usurpations of the Executive power of this Government have led, in many persons, to a nervous desire to know the

opinions of Presidential candidates upon subjects even the most trivial. Believing that in the hands of Zachary Taylor this power would not be abused, his declaration that he is a Whig, and that Whig principles in his estimation conform more nearly to Jeffersonian Democracy than do the principles of their opponents, are alone sufficient, in my opinion, to justify his nomination by the Whig party, or a declaration by its convention that he is already in the field as the candidate of the people, and that they pledge to him the support of the Whig party.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, &c.
ALEXANDER EVANS.

From David S. Ogden.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have this morning received the invitation which you did me the honor of sending to me, to dine with the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d instant. It would have given me great pleasure to have accepted your invitation, but I have promised to attend a meeting of the Whigs in this city on the evening of that day.

There never was a time when the interests of the country required the warm, zealous, and united exertions of the Whigs in the United States, so much as the present; I therefore rejoice that the nomination of General Taylor is to be made, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention. When that convention makes the nomination, the duty of every Whig is plain. We must support the nominee with our best exertions, giving up all our private preferences.

With great respect, I am your humble servant,
DAVID S. OGDEN.

From Hon. G. Adams, of the 6th Congressional District, Kentucky.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, Feb. 10, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your courteous letter of the 28th ult., inviting me to a public dinner to be given on the 22d of February, in commemoration of that glorious day, and for the purpose of bringing forward the name of General Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, is before me. In response to which I beg leave to state, that whilst it would give me much pleasure to be personally with you upon so interesting an occasion, I am constrained to respectfully decline your invitation.

Permit me, however, to say, that I prefer General Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency to any man in the nation, and so avowed myself throughout the sixth Congressional district during the last summer, and have had no occasion to change my feelings or opinions upon this subject. On the contrary, I am more thoroughly convinced that that distinguished man is the only individual with whom we can expect, with certainty, to be enabled to wrest the administration of the General Government from the hands of the despoilers of the Constitution, and place it upon the basis formed by the fathers of the Republic. In these views and feelings I am confident that I have the concurrence of nearly all, if not the entire, Whig party of the district I have the honor to represent.

Permit me, gentlemen, to tender to you, and through you to the Whigs of Philadelphia, my sincere esteem and respectful acknowledgments.

GREEN ADAMS.

From the Hon. A. King.

SENATE CHAMBER,

Harrisburg, Feb. 14, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I had the honor to receive your letter of the 9th inst., inviting me to attend a public dinner, to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d, in honor of the birth of Washington, and the brilliant victory obtained by the American army, under General Taylor, at Buena Vista.

It would afford me the highest gratification to participate in a festival commemorating these important events, but my duties here will not permit it.

It is not necessary for me, in reply to your note, to refer to the sanctity of the twenty-second of February, as associated with the great and good Washington. Every American heart feels it, and it will continue to be felt while freedom has an advocate in the world. But the day has found other and interesting associations. The greatest military achievement in modern times, if not accomplished, was at least commenced on this glorious anniversary, imparting additional lustre to the gallantry of the American soldier, and adding the crowning glory to the before distinguished character of the hero that "never surrenders." Henceforward the day will be observed with, if possible, increased veneration and respect; and, in all after times, the great names of Washington and Taylor will be remembered together.

In view of the present political condition of the country, the occasion has been suitably selected for the consideration of the claims of General Taylor to the high office with which his name has, for some time, been connected; and permit me to say, that, in the event of his nomination by a National Convention, I regard his election as beyond question. Such a nomination cannot fail to commend itself to the entire Whig party of the Union, and will rally to its support thousands that have not heretofore acted with us. The republican simplicity of his manners, the soundness of his political principles, his unquestionable talents, inflexible honesty, and devotion to his country, point him out as eminently qualified to administer the Government; and will inspire a confidence that will insure his election, and the triumph of the party that brings him into the field.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

A. KING.

From the Hon. William Ballord Preston.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 14th Feb., 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, inviting me in the name of the Whigs of Philadelphia to a public dinner which they intend giving on the 22d instant, "on which occasion they will bring forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a National Convention."

I am sensible of the compliment your letter expresses. I regret that it is not in my power to meet you on "that day, rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor."

I am solemnly impressed with the imminent peril which threatens the Constitution of our country, our free institutions, and our blessed Union.

It is in vain to look for relief or remedy for these perils and dangers, until the party now in power, and the President now in office, are overthrown and expelled—till the Government is rescued from the hands of those who now administer it, and who

are wielding its energies and directing its action to objects and purposes wholly at war with its Constitution and genius, and absolutely fatal to all our most cherished principles.

I heartily concur with you in the propriety of bringing forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, and in the opinion you express, "that he is a sound and genuine Whig."

The solid qualities of his intellect, his elevation of thought, his simplicity of life, his heroic courage, his genuine modesty, his stern virtue, his kind feeling, his singleness of purpose, his patriotic and ardent attachment to his country, his moderation and firmness, his brilliant achievements in the field, while they mark his own genuine nobleness and grandeur of character, have won the confidence, the love, and the gratitude of his countrymen.

A great work of deliverance and reformation lies full before us. I feel its magnitude, and am not insensible to its difficulties. With General Taylor as our leader, we will approach it with confidence and an abiding sense of victory and success.

I express to you my views when I declare that my *first wish* is for the overthrow of the men and measures of the present administration, and that I prefer General Zachary Taylor before all others as the President of this nation.

You may, therefore, expect from me a steady, constant, zealous co-operation in all just and honorable means to secure these desirable ends.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. BALLORD PRESTON.

Permit me, gentlemen, to offer you the following sentiment:

Gen. Zachary Taylor—In his elevation to the Presidency we "conquer a peace." In his administration of our Government we have ample "security for the future."

From the Hon. T. Butler King.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington City, Feb. 14, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 11th instant, inviting me to a public dinner to be given on the 22d of the present month by the Whigs of Philadelphia, when "they will bring forward the name of General Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention." Coinciding with you, as I cordially do, gentlemen, in "believing him to be a sound and genuine Whig," and that he is "eminently qualified for that office by rare traits of character and intellect," I beg to assure you that it is with deep regret I find the nature of my duties will forbid me the pleasure of uniting with you personally, as I do in sentiment cordially, on this interesting occasion. The modesty and purity of his character, and the strength of his mind, as developed in his correspondence, show General Taylor to be a man who cannot be seduced by office or corrupted by power; and, while his brilliant achievements will adorn the brightest pages of our country's history, they will descend from generation to generation, inscribed in the hearts of his countrymen.

I beg leave to offer the following sentiment:

General Zachary Taylor—The Washington of the present war.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, with very great respect, your most obedient servant,

T. BUTLER KING.

From Ogden Hoffman.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter in behalf of the Whigs of Philadelphia, inviting me to "a public dinner to be given on the 22d of February next," has been received by me, and I pray leave to offer my thanks for your complimentary attention.

The object of the festival proposed meets my approbation, as I, with you, "believe General Taylor to be a sound and genuine Whig, and to be qualified for the Presidency by his character and intellect."

But engagements of an imperative character compel me to deny myself the pleasure of being with you. There is to be a meeting in this city, on the same day, for the same object, and I have promised to be present at it, as one of its officers. Under these circumstances, I am sure that such an engagement in the common cause will furnish a sufficient excuse for declining your flattering invitation.

I am, with much respect, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

OGDEN HOFFMAN.

From the Hon. Chester Butler, of Pa.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of invitation to a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d instant, has been received. I regret to say that I am so situated as to put it out of my power to attend and partake of your hospitality on that day, which, as you justly remark, is "rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor."

I most cordially concur with you in your views and sentiments with regard to General Taylor, and your high appreciation of his merits. No man can ever stand upon the same elevation with Washington in the hearts of the American people, but there is no one, in my opinion, who so nearly approaches that high standard as General Taylor in those reliable qualities of mind and character which have rendered both so eminently useful to their country. Very appropriate, therefore, is it to celebrate on the same day the birth of the one and the wonderful achievements of the other.

Every dictate of sound policy and love of country, it seems to me, points to the adoption of Gen. Taylor as the candidate of the Whig party for the Presidency. He is Whig enough for the wants of the country, and I am willing to take him without any other pledges than those given by the whole course of his life. There are combined in his character more of those qualities, which the present condition of the country demands, than in that of any other public man, while there are excluded most of those elements which are objectionable. In his energy, integrity, and intelligence—in his prudence and patriotism, the people can and do rely with full and entire confidence—and fortunate will it be for the country if the justness of that confidence can be tested by the elevation of General Taylor to the Presidency.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHESTER BUTLER.

From Isaac Munroe.

PATRIOT OFFICE, BALTIMORE, Feb. 19, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have delayed replying to your kind invitation to attend the Buena Vista festival in your city on the 22d instant, in the hope that I should be able to be present, but I find that circumstances, which I cannot control, will deprive me of that pleasure.

No one appreciates more highly than I do the exalted character and eminent services of General Taylor; and, while his military achievements stand out in bold relief as unsurpassed in military renown, ancient or modern, I feel an abiding confidence that, if elevated to the Presidential chair, his administration would compare successfully with the best of those illustrious men who have gone before him. Entertaining these views of this great and good man, in their broadest sense, should he be selected as our candidate, I should enrol myself with the rank and file with a hearty good will, and march under his banner with the same confidence of success as did the gallant spirits who followed him in glorious triumph from the battle field of Palo Alto to Buena Vista, the cap-sheaf of all his unparalleled victories.

Wishing you all desirable pleasure and enjoyment at the celebration, allow me to propose the following sentiment:

The ever glorious cause in which we are engaged—Guided by justice and a patriotic devotion to country, with union and energy of action, victory is certain.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your friend and fellow-citizen,

ISAAC MUNROE.

From John P. Kennedy.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 20, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I believe there is not a true Whig in Maryland who, if he could persuade himself of the certainty of success, would not prefer the nomination of Mr. Clay before all others as the candidate of the Whigs in the next Presidential canvass; but I believe, also, that there is not a Whig in the State who is not reluctant to advise the encounter of the hazard of such a nomination.

We are not willing, but under stronger inducements than we see at present, to commit, a name so dear to the glory of the past, so full of honor for the admiration of the future—*clarum et venerabile nomen*—to the issues of a contest which we have reason to fear might be more than doubtful.

The fame of Henry Clay can derive no new lustre from the highest office; nor will his name and counsels be less affectionately remembered by the Whigs, whether his place be the first citizen of the Republic or its Chief Magistrate. But we have an earnest conviction that a defeat of the Whigs upon his nomination would, in the present crisis of our affairs, bring a deep and lasting calamity upon the country. Now, more than ever before, the honor, integrity, and therein the true glory of this Union, in our opinion, depend upon the successful effort of the Whig party to preserve its ascendancy with the people.

With the utmost confidence in our power to maintain this ascendancy, we look to the nomination of General Taylor. I believe there is not a true Whig in Maryland who will not hail that nomination by the convention with gratulation and applause. We look to him as the friend of Henry Clay, and find, in his often expressed preference for the Patriot of Ashland, the surest pledge of his identification with the Whig party. We trust in him, not less for the wisdom and valor which has overwhelmed enemies in front and in the rear, than for the earnest republican simplicity of his life, his ardent devotion to his country, and the temperate and masterly judgment with which he has ever done his duty. Whilst thus expressing what I believe to be the preferences of Maryland, I do not

scruple to say that we shall abide with the most hearty good will by the decision of the Convention.

I regret, gentlemen, that I shall not be able to meet you on the 22d, as I am not able to leave Baltimore at the present season, and am therefore obliged to content myself with this expression of my concurrence in the purpose of your celebration.

Very truly yours, &c.,

JOHN P. KENNEDY.

From Hon. A. Lincoln.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, Feb. 9, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter inviting me to attend a meeting on the 22d instant, at Philadelphia, to nominate General Taylor for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a National Convention, has been received. It will not be convenient for me to attend, yet I take the occasion to say, I am decidedly in favor of General Taylor as the Whig candidate for the next Presidency. I am the only Whig member of Congress from Illinois, so that the meeting will probably hear nothing from that State, unless it be from me through the medium of this letter. For this reason I think proper to say, that during the last summer a convention was held in that State for the purpose of amending her constitution; that, in that convention, there were, as I remember, some more than seventy Whig members; that, at a meeting of those Whig members, they nominated General Taylor for the Presidency; and that, with the exception of a very few, (not more than six I believe,) they subscribed their names to that nomination and published it to the world. These delegates of course were not elected to nominate a candidate for the Presidency, nor did they, in the matter, assume to act in any capacity other than as so many individuals expressing their own preferences; still, coming from all parts of the State as they did, their action, together with other facts falling within my observation, leave no doubt in my mind that the preference of the Whigs of the State is the same.

Those Whig delegates said nothing as to a National Convention, as far as I can remember, nor has anything transpired since enabling me to determine what is the disposition of the Whigs of Illinois on the subject; still it is my expectation that they will send delegates to the Convention, as I think it will be proper that they should.

Very respectfully, A. LINCOLN.

From Hon. J. B. Thompson, of Kentucky.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., *Feb. 19, 1848.*

GENTLEMEN: I received your very polite letter of the 11th instant, in behalf of the Whigs of Philadelphia, inviting me to attend a public dinner, to be given by them on the anniversary of the birthday of Washington, and of the battle of Buena Vista.

Upon that occasion you propose to bring forward the name of General Z. Taylor for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a National Convention, and would be happy to know if my views coincide with yours. On the 10th May last a very numerous and influential meeting of Whig Delegates of the Fifth Congressional District of Kentucky, convened at Bardstown, did me the honor of being selected by them, in a rather doubtful district, to make the canvass for the party in politics with which we are identified and act. That convention at the same time recommended General Taylor unanimously for the next Presidency. In that district,

by a very large and increased Whig majority, against a very formidable opponent, I was elected. So far, therefore, as my opinion, or that of those I have the honor here to represent, is to have weight and consideration upon the subject of the Chief Magistracy, in connexion with General Taylor's name in the way intimated by you, I have to say: So far from anything since having transpired in the history or character of General Taylor's life to diminish the confidence and committal then pledged, I am persuaded, at least for myself, that his popularity has increased. "The salvation of the Constitution, and the rescue of the nation from the perils that now surround them," are objects so cherished and dear to every patriot, and to my mind so clearly objects only to be accomplished by the harmony, concert, co-operation, and final ascendancy of the great conservative principles we profess, I need not assure you I would most cordially, if present, give to you my aid and approbation, as far as usage, propriety, and right principle would sanction. In the coming contest for the Presidency, I believe Kentucky (for whom I do not assume to speak) and especially in the circle of my acquaintance and constituency, such is the faith in the pre-eminent qualifications, and rare combination of traits of character, fitting General Taylor for the station, I am confident now, next to the hallowed reverence felt for the memory of Washington, (whose birthday is so opportunely and fitly blended by you with the great achievements of Buena Vista,) is the ardent desire and cherished hope that General Taylor shall preside over the destinies of this great nation. I conclude by expressing the belief that, as in years gone by, beside what may, the beloved Commonwealth of which I am a citizen will be found on the side of constitutional freedom, and the enlightened policy professed by our party. Accept, gentlemen, for yourselves, and present to those you represent, my thanks for your proffered hospitality, with the assurance that nothing but the irremissible duties of station here prevents my attendance.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. B. THOMPSON.

From W. A. Newell, of New Jersey.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, Feb. 18, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: My public duties will prevent me from accepting your kind invitation to be with you, upon the occasion of the festival in honor of General Taylor.

I have shared the pride of his countrymen, in watching the career of one who has endeared himself to us all as a man and a soldier.

Courage and humanity, self-respect and humility, are virtues which never fail to win the admiration of mankind. It was this well-balanced character which made Washington honored and beloved.

The patience with which General Taylor has shared with the common soldier the privations of the march and camp, the modesty of his despatches, the unmoved courage with which he has surveyed and surmounted obstacles, his respectful yet decided independence to his superiors in office, in "asking of them no favors and shrinking from no responsibilities;" his humanity to the vanquished—all these justly entitle him to the proud distinction you have conferred on him by uniting his name with that of Washington.

Permit me to offer the following sentiment :
 "Patient of toils—serene amidst alarms,
 Inflexible in faith, invincible in arms."
 I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, yours, &c.
 WILLIAM A. NEWELL.

From the honorable A. Herr Smith.
 SENATE CHAMBER,
 Harrisburg, Feb. 21st, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: A few days since I received your letter inviting me to attend a public festival, to be given by the Whigs of your city, on the 22d inst. For the honor intended, I sincerely thank you, and beg you to make known to those whom you represent, that public engagements alone prevent an acceptance of your invitation.

The present condition of our country is extremely critical, and renders it imperatively necessary that the Whigs should meet in council to deliberate upon the best means to save the Constitution from violence, and our glorious nation from utter and irretrievable ruin. It is in the hour of danger and peril that the people look to the Whigs of the Union for safety and protection. I know of no day more auspicious than that which gave birth to the Father of his Country, to consult as to its safety, and to present to the people a candidate whose patriotism and avowed Whig principles give assurance that he will, if elected, carry out the great principles of the Constitution. To ensure success, however, personal predilections must yield to the voice of the masses, and private interests must be sacrificed upon the altar of the public good. Union and harmony must be the motto of the Whig party. It will prove itself

"A tower of strength,
 Which they upon the adverse faction want."

In conclusion, I have only to add, that if the Whig National Convention shall nominate the hero of Buena Vista, I pledge myself to go as far as he who goes farthest, in aiding to secure his election.

Very sincerely, yours,
 A. HERR SMITH.

From honorable E. Embree, of Indiana.
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 Washington, Feb. 10, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter inviting me to partake in a public dinner, to be given on the 22d instant, has been received. I regret that public duties forbid my being with you on that occasion, for I concur with you in believing that General Taylor is eminently qualified to discharge the duties of Chief Magistrate of the United States; and I will add, what is no less important, that his modesty, humanity, integrity, firmness, wisdom, bravery, and unparalleled military achievements, have won for him the confidence and affections of the people, which, as exhibited in their assemblies, show that he *can be elected*. For the people love justice, and will reward public virtue, and the attempt to arrest his brilliant career, by superseding him in command—by party efforts in the 29th Congress to defeat a vote of thanks so eminently due to his services—by the revival of an obsolete order to form a pretence for his censure by the Administration—by withdrawing a great part of his efficient force, leaving him to contend with an army nearly five times his number, well appointed, and led by the favored Santa Anna:

I repeat, that all these combine to make General Taylor the favorite of the people, and will, if proper efforts are made by his friends, secure his elec-

tion, and it is to be hoped that the Whig Convention, of which you speak, will duly consider public sentiment. I offer, gentlemen, in conclusion, the following sentiment:

General Zachary Taylor—Indiana owes him a debt of gratitude, for defending her in her infancy, which she is anxious to pay, without repudiation, at the next Presidential election.

Respectfully, E. EMBREE.

From N. S. Brown, Governor of Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, February 4, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your esteemed favor of the 24th of January has been received, inviting me in behalf of the Whigs of Philadelphia, to participate with them in a public dinner on the 22d instant, in commemoration of that day. For this distinguished honor, I beg leave to tender to you, and through you to those you represent, my sincerest acknowledgments.

It would afford me much pleasure to be present on the occasion referred to, and participate with you in rendering the joyous homage, so due to a day rendered doubly glorious to every American. The twin associations now connected with it, impart to it peculiar interest, each bestowing upon the other its own noble inspirations, and both in unison with the loftiest patriotism. And, I fervently trust and believe, that as this same day has vouchsafed to the country the author of our liberties, it is destined to be intimately connected with another as their defender, by the voice of a free people. For such a consummation, I exchange with you and those you represent a solicitude, equalled only by my sense of the great public blessings which, I believe, would flow from it.

But I shall be compelled to forego the pleasure of being with you on that occasion—the claims of varied duties forbid me.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,
 N. S. BROWN.

From honorable J. Phillips Phoenix, of New York.

ALBANY, 2d February, 1828.

GENTLEMEN: I have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter of the 28th ultimo, inviting me to a public dinner to be given on the 22d February instant, "a day rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor."

Be assured, gentlemen, that it would be extremely gratifying to me to be enabled to be with you, and to participate with you in the duty of every citizen who loves his country, in rendering due honor to the soldier who has so gallantly distinguished himself before the enemy at Buena Vista. He is justly entitled to the gratitude and confidence of his countrymen, and the submission of the name of General Taylor, with the names of other distinguished men, to a National Convention, for the Presidency of the United States, meets with my most hearty concurrence. I am apprehensive, however, that being engaged here on public business, it will not be in my power to accept the invitation with which you have honored me.

I acknowledge, with great pleasure, the compliment you have tendered me, and I beg leave to assure you of my devotion to the principles of the Whig party—principles eminently calculated to promote the interest and honor of the country.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, &c.,
 J. PHILLIPS PHOENIX.

From Thomas M. Brewer, Esq.

OFFICE OF DAILY ATLAS,

Boston, Feb. 2d, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your kind favor of the 29th ult. has just reached me, informing me of the polite invitation tendered me, through you, by my brother Whigs of Philadelphia. Be assured that everything that comes to me bearing the honored name of Whig—a name to me associated with all that is noble, honorable, or commendable in our national politics—demands at my hands a kindly welcome and friendly regard. I honor the name of Whig, as I honor and venerate the sacred principles it covers. My heart yearns towards all who come to me as brethren in that great and holy cause, and when, in that name, they ask me to join with them to aid in a movement which may result in the salvation of the Constitution and the rescue of the nation and Union from the perils that now surround them, most sincerely do I regret that my avocations at home will compel me to forego that pleasure.

Be assured I am not unmindful of the glorious services of those whose achievements you propose to celebrate; and should he whose claims to the Presidency are highest in your eyes receive the sanction of a Whig National Convention, I trust I need not assure you, gentlemen, no one will be before me in urging his support upon the nation.

Be pleased to tender my warmest acknowledgments to my Whig brethren of Philadelphia for their kind remembrance, and my sincere regret that it will not be in my power to avail myself of their kindness.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOMAS M. BREWER.

From the Hon. B. Jordan.

SENATE CHAMBER, *Harrisburg, Feb. 17, 1848.*

GENTLEMEN: On my return to this place on the evening of the 15th, after an absence of some days, I received your communication of the 9th instant, inviting me to partake of a Whig dinner, to be given by the friends of Gen. Z. Taylor, on the 22d instant, in honor of his virtues and his brilliant services rendered to his country in the war with Mexico.

I feel grateful for the honor conferred upon me by their kind invitation, and shall be highly gratified to participate with the Whigs on that occasion; but should any thing occur to prevent my attendance, I will most cheerfully acquiesce in any measure they may adopt to secure the nomination to the Presidential chair of the hero of Buena Vista, by the National Convention which is to assemble in the city of Philadelphia on the 7th of June next.

With ardent desire for the success of the old hero, and sentiments of esteem for yourselves,

I am your fellow-citizen,

B. JORDAN.

From the Hon. M. Hampton, of Pennsylvania.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, Feb. 19, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, on behalf of the Whigs of Philadelphia, inviting me to be present at a public dinner which they intend giving on the 22d inst.—a day rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories of “Washington and Taylor.”

You propose, on that occasion, to “bring forward the name of Gen. Zachary Taylor as a candidate

for the Presidency, subject to the decision of the Whig National Convention.”

I regret that my public duties compel me to forego the pleasure of meeting my Whig brethren of Philadelphia on the interesting occasion to which you refer.

There seems to be a peculiar fitness in the day you have selected to do honor to the names of the august dead and illustrious living—a day that gave birth to the Father of his Country, and immortality to one of her most distinguished sons.

In view of the destructive policy pursued by the party now in power, I am deeply impressed with the paramount duty of every true Whig in the Union to offer up, on the altar of patriotism, all personal preferences, and unite on the candidate who will most certainly lead to victory.

Under the hand of usurpation and misrule, the country lies prostrate and bleeding at every pore; all the great principles established by the wisdom of our fathers have been subverted; the system of protection to American industry and enterprise destroyed, and the principle itself denounced as anti-republican. The right to improve our harbors and rivers is denied to Congress, and the will of the people paralyzed by the Executive veto. The powers reserved to the States and the people by the framers of the Constitution are becoming rapidly consolidated in the hands of the President, and the sacred halls of legislation are invaded by Executive dictation; the country involved in a war of conquest for the extension of slavery. The public credit has been impaired, while a national debt of fearful magnitude is created, which, under the odious system of free trade adopted by the present Administration, can only be paid by direct taxation.

From these and many other evils the country looks to the great Whig party for relief.

With these facts before me, I believe the triumph of Whig principles essential to the preservation of the Constitution and the Union. And, should your efforts to procure the nomination of the hero of Buena Vista, by the Whig National Convention, be successful, it will be alike my duty and pleasure to do battle in his favor to the utmost extent of my abilities.

Permit me, gentlemen, to offer the annexed sentiment.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient serv't,
M. HAMPTON.

The triumph of Whig principles.—Though not sufficient “indemnity for the past,” will be ample “security for the future.”

From the Hon. Wm. L. Dayton.

WASHINGTON, *Feb. 18th, 1848.*

GENTLEMEN: I acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of your invitation to be present at the Dinner to be given in Philadelphia, on the 22d instant, in honor of Gen. Taylor.

Though engagements elsewhere may prevent my appearance in person, I assure you that I will participate with you in feeling. There is a peculiar fitness at this time, without reference to any ulterior object, in making a proper demonstration of respect for the character and services of that great man. He has done much for his country, and received little in return. He esteems himself, now, doubted and distrusted by an Administration which his gallantry and prudence in Mexico have saved from utter annihilation. His countrymen, at least, should never doubt, never distrust him.

In private life, he is every thing that his public service would indicate—plain and simple in his habits, unostentatious and pure in his life, intelligent in action, straightforward in expression, “asking no favor and shrinking from no responsibility.” He is fitted for any thing and every thing which the wishes or wants of his countrymen may impose upon him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. L. DAYTON.

From Hon. Abbott Lawrence.

Boston, Feb. 14, 1848.

MY DEAR SIRS: I beg to offer my acknowledgments and thanks for the invitation you have honored me, to be present at a public dinner, to be given in Philadelphia on the memorable 22d inst., for the purpose of “celebrating the blended glories of Washington and Taylor.”

I have been taught from my earliest childhood to venerate the name and character of Gen. Washington, and, as the time of his immortal achievements recedes, I find my desire stronger to seize upon every proper opportunity to bring distinctly to the minds of my children, and those around me, over whom I have influence, the principles and teachings of one of the greatest benefactors of mankind, in the cause of human freedom *regulated by law*.

I entertain and cherish the highest respect and regard for General Taylor—I believe him to be brave and chivalrous in the best sense of those words—possessing ability and integrity—*above all the petty arts of ordinary political men*; holding himself responsible, as an honorable man should do, for his public as well as private conduct. I believe, too, if he should be nominated by a Whig National Convention, as a candidate for President of the United States, that he will be elected by a large majority, and that he will administer the Government with wisdom, and in accordance with the Constitution, so wisely and happily established by our fathers.

I regret that it will not be in my power to accept your invitation on the present interesting occasion, and pray you, dear sirs, to believe that I remain very faithfully your obliged and obedient servant,
ABBOTT LAWRENCE.

From Hon. Jno. P. Gaines.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I regret that my duties here will not permit me to be present at the “public dinner” proposed to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d inst. Under other circumstances I should take great pleasure in uniting with you in the celebration of a day which commemorates the birth of Washington and the distinguished military services of General Taylor and the intrepid soldiers of his command.

As a *Whig* I cannot feel other than the deepest interest in the movement which you contemplate making in favor of General Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency.

That he is every way qualified for the station can be doubted by none who have observed his course through life. While he has ever been distinguished by those traits of character which dignify and adorn private life, he is equally so by those high intellectual qualifications which have shown him to be one of the most illustrious captains of the age. The present times require a man of stern integrity, who “*asks no favors, and shrinks from no*

responsibility,” to bring back the Government to its original purity. I cannot doubt his success, or that of any other true Whig who shall receive the nomination of the Whig National Convention.

Permit me to offer you the following sentiment:

General Zachary Taylor—Honest as a man, unsurpassed as a military commander, and, as a *Whig*, true to the principles of the Constitution. The destiny of the nation will be safe in his hands.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. GAINES.

From Hon. Benjamin Matthias.

SENATE CHAMBER,

Harrisburg, Feb. 18, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter inviting me to participate in the Great Whig Festival, to be held in the Museum Building, on the 22d instant, is before me. Nothing could afford me greater pleasure than to be with you on that occasion, to join you in expressions of sincere regard for the memory of our beloved Washington, and to unite with you in doing honor to the illustrious Taylor, whose eminent virtues and high-minded patriotism have gained for him an elevated place in the affections of his countrymen. I decline your polite invitation only because my duties in the Senate will not allow me to be absent.

Gen. Taylor is another illustration of the fact that great events produce great men. But for the war of the Revolution the merits and virtues of even a Washington would have lain in obscurity, the eloquence of a Patrick Henry would have been unheeded, the financial abilities of a Robert Morris unknown, and the statesmanship of an Adams and a Jefferson without a suitable field for distinction. That event developed the power, resources, and energies of the American people—a people before treated almost with contempt by other nations, and utterly unappreciated even by themselves.

The last war with Great Britain produced our naval heroes, and taught the proudest and strongest maritime power of Europe that, upon the ocean wave, as well as upon the tented field, American energy and valor were fully equal to any crisis or emergency, and capable of successfully coping with the ablest naval power of the world. The deeds of a Perry, a Biddle, a Stewart, are brilliant events in our country's history.

The present war with Mexico has produced its Taylor, whose merits, but for that war, would have been comparatively unknown. The gallant captain of 1812 has proved himself the able general of 1846, and evinced traits of character which rank him not only amongst the bravest of the brave, but as a shrewd, skilful, and able tactician, a profound thinker, and a clear-headed and sound man.

When society is startled by the sudden developments of great genius, we naturally look upon the early life of the individual, to endeavor to discover the germ of greatness. Applying this to Taylor's early history, we find a solid basis upon which to erect future eminence. The defence of Fort Harrison would have done honor to a Marlborough, a Washington, or a Napoleon; and the victory of Okeechobee, which closed the protracted, expensive, and harassing war in Florida, was equally indicative of sagacity, skill, and bravery, upon the part of the commander. The elements of greatness were demonstrated in Taylor's youth; his mature age has produced even more than that youth promised.

Brilliant as are the military abilities of Taylor, they are not his chief merits. His bravery is beautifully blended with humanity; his noble daring with clearness of perception, forethought, and sagacity. The mere love of conquest he does not appear to possess; and while he takes the field, in obedience to the call of his country, every act shows the upright and humane man, as well as the experienced warrior. His despatches are models of unaffected modesty, and his letters to bereaved parents and friends, such as do honor to the human heart.

Goodness of heart is not always connected with greatness of mind, but no man can be truly great unless he be really good. I believe Gen. Taylor to be both great and good, and thoroughly convinced, also, that he entertains and is governed by sound Whig principles, and none other; if nominated for the Presidency by the Whig National Convention, I shall go into his support with all the strength and ardor I possess. Without at all disparaging the high claims of many others in the Whig ranks, I believe Gen. Taylor to be the man for the times, and his nomination for the Presidency, by the Whig National Convention, I shall regard as ensuring certain victory to the Whig party of the Union.

Very respectfully and truly yours,
BENJ. MATTHIAS.

Please present in my name the annexed sentiment:

General Taylor, the Soldier and the Man—High honor to his bravery; higher honor to his humanity.

From Hon. D. Duncan, of Ohio.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, Feb. 19, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 10th instant, inviting me, on the part of the Whigs of Philadelphia, to a public dinner to be given on the 22d instant. On that occasion, you informed me the name of Gen. Zachary Taylor will be brought forward as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention.

It would afford me the highest gratification to join with you in commemorating the virtues of him whose name is loved and revered by every American, and to celebrate, at the same time, one of the most brilliant victories our history records.

It is said that Republics are ungrateful. Ours proves the saying to be false. No people have ever rendered to distinguished public service a more willing or grateful reward. Washington, Jackson, and Harrison, are bright examples; and Taylor, I am happy to think, will prove no exception to the rule.

I have no hesitation in expressing my belief that, should the Whig National Convention nominate Gen. Taylor, the Whig party will achieve as great a victory in the coming political contest as it did in 1840. I regret, gentlemen, that my public duties will prevent me from joining you on this interesting occasion.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
DANIEL DUNCAN.

From Hon. D. M. Barringer.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.,
February 16, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have been honored with the re-

ceipt of your invitation to a public dinner, to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d instant, on which occasion they propose to bring forward the name of Gen. Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention. My answer has been delayed until the present time, in anticipation of the hope that it would be in my power to accept your invitation. Rejoiced, as I should be, to unite with you in person on that occasion, and anxious, as I am, to aid you in its high object, I fear the probable necessity of my presence here, in the discharge of public duties, will prevent my attendance. But allow me, gentlemen, to say that, though absent, I shall be thoroughly with you in sentiment and feeling; and I sincerely trust your demonstration will be such as cannot fail to produce a beneficial effect upon the country, and the good cause you hope to advance. It is proper that your city, whose Whig fidelity has never been shaken, should take a lead in this movement in favor of a distinguished citizen for the Presidency; and you have been fortunate in selecting, as the time for a public presentation of his claims, the 22d day of February, a day memorable in the annals of our country, and which has now united and enshrined in the hearts of their countrymen the glories of Taylor and Buena Vista with the hallowed memory of Washington.

While, gentlemen, we should all unite in abiding the decision of a Whig National Convention, fairly constituted, and fully representing the popular will, in the selection of the most suitable names as our candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, from the list of distinguished individuals whose pretensions may be canvassed, it cannot be impolitic, and may be very desirable, to hold preliminary meetings, and in a spirit of frankness and temper, of conciliation and forbearance, discuss and give expression to the claims of those whom any portion of the people may desire to place in the highest office in their gift. It may be objected by some that it is better to wait the developments of public opinion, and that it may be unwise to indicate individual preferences now. I think differently—and having clear convictions on the subject, satisfactory at least to my own judgment, I am free to avow them: *I am decidedly of opinion that Gen. Taylor ought to be the candidate of the Whig party of the United States for the next Presidency.* Remarkable for his sympathy with the masses of our people—for his plain republican manners—for his strong common sense—unsuspected integrity, public and private—his moderation and prudence—his ardent and undoubted patriotism—his fealty to the Constitution and union of the States—his bravery in the field and wisdom in counsel—his indomitable spirit in battle, and his generous and humane magnanimity in the hour of victory over a prostrate foe—distinguished for that rare union of the faithful obedience of the soldier with the lofty spirit of the freeman, which could enable him to look Executive displeasure in the face, and declare, with unmistakable emphasis, “I ask no favor, and shrink from no responsibility”—with a mind which has proved equal to the many trying emergencies which it has been the lot of an eventful life to encounter; and, above all, conspicuous among all men for that genuine and unaffected modesty, which is almost always the infallible index of true greatness, Gen. Taylor is eminently fit to be the President of this great and free people. In the present peculiar and dangerous crisis of our now complicated Mexican relations; in the momentous and fearful issues

which are to grow out of the prosecution and end of this unfortunate war, there will be, I think, among the many other reasons for his elevation to the Chief Magistracy, a high and patriotic policy in having *such a man* at the head of our national affairs. His moral power with the people; his deserved popularity, not confined to mere party divisions; and his familiarity with the particular subject of Mexican affairs, would enable him, perhaps, more than any other man, to terminate and adjust, on a sure, permanent, just, and honorable basis, satisfactory to both Republics, all the difficult and alarming questions arising out of our present contest with Mexico. I have no doubt that General Taylor is a Whig. I have, myself, always been, and expect always to be, a Whig—a true Republican Whig. I was a Whig when it cost something of labor and feeling to be of that political faith, and when it was necessary to breast the torrent of an adverse popularity. But I have never “asked favor or shrunk from responsibility.” I have had no ambition but to promote the good of my country, and faithfully discharge all the duties incumbent on me as one of her humblest citizens. I am now, and have always been, the friend of *Henry Clay*, the patriot and statesman, and unflinching champion of Whig principles. His banner has never been thrown to the breeze but I have been found enlisted under its folds. How long, how zealously and efficiently, I have been a soldier in his cause, (because I believed it to be the true cause of the country,) both political parties in the “Old North State” can bear testimony. If, in the progress of events, the wisdom of the National Convention should determine that the great statesman of the West shall be our standard bearer in the coming contest, I am ready and willing again to do service in that glorious cause as zealously as ever. If I had the power to make Mr. Clay President, and to command for him majorities in both branches of the National Legislature in favor of the great Whig policy of which he is the most distinguished advocate, I would most cheerfully gratify the first wish of my heart for years, and place him in that exalted station to which his eminent services and devotion to his country so justly entitle him. But we cannot be blind to the signs of the times. I doubt whether he can be elected. And even if Mr. Clay could be elected, there is every reasonable probability to fear that, such is the bitterness and fury of partisan zeal against him, his nomination would be the signal for the rally of every faction of an old and embittered opposition against him, and that he would be in a minority in both branches of the next, and probably of the 32d, Congress. Except for the mere “*spoils of office*,” a principle we have so often and justly condemned, it might prove a barren victory, in reference at least to the fruits of a wise legislation. Certainly he could make no treaty with Mexico which would not, in the present state of parties in the Senate, and probably in the House of Representatives, meet with the most violent, and perhaps successful, opposition. Looking, then, to the success of the party and its principles, and the great interests, and, I might add, the very salvation of the country and its institutions, my opinion is, that the name of Mr. Clay ought not, and that the name of *General Zachary Taylor* ought to be, presented, at this time, by the Whig party to the American people as a candidate for the Presidency. I trust Mr. Clay may never have occasion to feel that those, however honest they may be in their convictions, who advise a different course, are not

his truest friends, or safest counsellors. I am in favor of General Taylor to the Presidency, because, I believe he can and will be elected; and because if elected, I believe his administration will be cordially sustained by the American people; that, in it, he will carry out the true principles of our party, to which I believe him sincerely attached; and that he will establish at home a policy liberal, beneficent, wise, and patriotic, and in “strict accordance with the Constitution;” and that he will so manage our foreign relations as soon to restore to us the rich blessings of peace; fix her foundations on a solid, just, and honorable basis, and rescue us from the perils of the mad career of “conquest,” and unchastened national ambition, to which many in high places are now seeking pretexts to plunge our common and beloved country.

Be pleased, gentlemen, to present the accompanying sentiment, and believe me, truly, with sincere respect, your obedient servant,

D. M. BARRINGER.

The success of the Whig party—Ensured by the selection of General Taylor as the Whig candidate by the National Whig Convention.

Letter from the Hon. B. W. Leigh.

RICHMOND, Feb. 18, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I received by yesterday's mail your letter of the 14th, inviting me to a public dinner, which the Whigs of Philadelphia intend to give on the 22d instant, on which occasion they will bring forward the name of Gen. Z. Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, “subject to the decision of a Whig National Convention.” The state of my health is such, that I feel obliged to decline the invitation.

Gen. Taylor is not my first choice, but I sincerely respect him, and I believe him to be a Whig; and if he shall be selected to be our candidate by a Whig National Convention, I shall be well content, and shall give him my zealous support.

I am, gentlemen, with all respect,

Your obedient servant,

B. W. LEIGH.

From John A. King.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your invitation to join you at a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia on the 22d inst., for the purpose of bringing forward the name of Zachary Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency, was only received this morning, owing to my absence from my residence on Long Island. Nothing, you may be assured, would gratify me more than to meet the Whigs of Philadelphia on that memorable day, to prove to them that here, in this city and State, there are warm hearts, and will be vigorous efforts, enlisted in the cause of Taylor and the Constitution. But that personal gratification must be denied me, for while you are at the festive board, in the midst of those generous feelings and aspirations which befit the occasion, I shall be assisting, as one of the officers, at a great meeting of the Whigs of the city of New York; who will also, on that evening, present the name of Zachary Taylor, as, in their opinion, eminently qualified to serve and save the country, whose honor and fame he has so often and so gloriously vindicated on the field of battle. I pray you to accept my thanks for the honor of your invitation, with the assurance that here, as well as with you, the

friends of General Taylor will do their duty to him and to their country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN A. KING.

From the Hon. James Pollock.

HOUSE OF REPS., Feb. 16, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your note of invitation to a public dinner to be given by the Whigs of Philadelphia, on the 22d inst., has been received.

Concurring with you in the views and sentiments you express, it would be highly gratifying to me to be present on the occasion, and unite with you in doing honor to those whose names will be forever associated in the hallowed memories of that eventful day, but my engagements here compel me to forego that pleasure.

Yours, respectfully,
JAMES POLLOCK.

From J. Prescott Hall, Esq.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have delayed my answer to your polite invitation a little, in order to ascertain what my engagements might be on the day of Washington's birth, which you propose to celebrate in an appropriate manner, by bringing forward the great name of General Taylor as a candidate for the Presidency; and I regret to say, that my connexion with a like movement here, at the same time, will deprive me of an honor which would have made me proud. Believing in the firmness and integrity of the hero of Buena Vista—having entire confidence in the soundness of his principles—relying upon his judgment and discretion—and not doubting his capacity, acquirements, or fitness for the high office which is now in full view before him—a number of the citizens of New York, not usually connected with politics, have set apart the twenty-second day of February as the day when they also will present Zachary Taylor to the people of the United States, as a man not only competent to discharge all the duties of a chief magistrate, but certain of success if allowed a "fair field and an equal sun."

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. PRESCOTT HALL.

From G. W. Kendall, of the N. O. Picayune.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 20, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: While, in your city, a few days since, I received your polite invitation to attend the public dinner on the coming 22d—a day, as you truly remark, "rendered doubly memorable by the blended glories of Washington and Taylor."

Circumstances will prevent me from joining you on this occasion; but allow me to express my firm belief, with yourselves, that in General Taylor we have a sound and genuine Whig—one eminently qualified, by rare traits of character and intellect, for the highest office in the gift of his countrymen—and, what is more, one whose availability as a candidate can hardly be questioned by those who have watched the signs in the political horizon within the past few months. Trusting and believing that

your festivities will result in bringing the old hero favorably before the National Convention.

I subscribe, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. WILKINS KENDALL.

Correspondence with Gen. Taylor.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15, 1848.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed are the proceedings of a meeting of Whigs of the city and county of Philadelphia, in reference to the celebration of the birth day of WASHINGTON, and the anniversary of the battle of Buena Vista—an event which has forever associated in honorable companionship the names of WASHINGTON and TAYLOR.

You will see that it is intended to present your name as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. The eminent services you have rendered through an eventful life, and the purity of your public career, render you worthy of the station to which WASHINGTON was raised, by a people whose character was elevated in the eyes of the world, by the lustre of his actions and virtues.

We confidently anticipate your nomination by the Whig National Convention; and, in that event, we expect, with equal confidence, that a large majority of your fellow-citizens will be found supporting you for the Presidency of the United States.

It will give us great pleasure, should you be able to unite with us in the celebration of the 22d of February next. We need not assure you that you will be received by the entire population of this city with a sincere and enthusiastic welcome.

We have the honor to be, your obedient servants,

JNO. SERGEANT,
CHAS. GILPIN,
E. JOY MORRIS,
GEORGE ERETÝ,
JOHN WISTAR, JR.,
PETER GLASGOW,
GEO. A. LANDELL.

To Major Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR.

BATON ROUGE, LA., Feb. 1, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your complimentary letter of the 15th ult., enclosing to me the "proceedings of Whigs of the city and county of Philadelphia, in reference to the celebration of the Birthday of WASHINGTON and the anniversary of the battle of Buena Vista," and politely requesting my presence on the occasion.

I beg to assure you that it would be a source of high gratification to me to comply with your kind wishes, and to be able to meet my fellow-citizens of Philadelphia under such interesting circumstances; but I regret to inform you that I deem it inconsistent with the objects of my present leave of absence to leave the vicinity of this place for so long a time.

With my sincere thanks for the friendly sentiments towards me, which you have been pleased to express in your kind communication, I remain, gentlemen, with high esteem, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.